HELPS

BY THE WAY

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COMPILED BY

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

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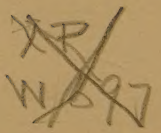

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INTRODUCTION.

THIS little Book speaks for itself and hardly needs an introduction, and yet it may not seem unsuitable that one who has been interested in its compilation should say a few words about its purpose and idea.

Some books are teachers, and come to us with systematic and well ordered truth; other books are friends and bring to us suggestions. We recognize at once the difference between the teacher and the friend. The two characters may be united in one man and yet they are separate when in our thought. We value the teacher for his truth; we value the friend for his personality.

The books which come to us as friends have something which is almost personality for us.

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We almost know their faces — we have almost heard the sound of their voices and felt the pressure of their hands.

And the most notable quality of such books is their suggestiveness. They bring their thought and give it to us not as men bring their treasures to a warehouse, laying them down there upon the floor as on a foreign, unrelated substance, but as you bring the spark of fire to a pile of wood which has within itself the power of burning and turning into fire. It is not the fullness of their hands which makes them welcome. It is the delicacy and discrimination of the finger which they lay upon some spring in us and set some of our nature free.

This book, I fancy, aspires to be the friend of men and women, and so it must be judged by its suggestiveness. If it does what it hopes to do, it will show that it has the qualities which belong to all suggestive men and things; it will illustrate anew the essential nature of suggestiveness which is always interesting.

Let me mention two or three truths which are involved in the very fact that there are suggestive books and men — books and men at whose touch human natures start into life and thought which often far outgoes the book or man that touched them.

1. First, it implies a human nature full of mysterious and rich resources. You think that you have made a full survey of your own life and have an inventory of your possible powers, when sometime the wise word of a sage or of a child falls on you and some spring flies back, some door flies open, and you are thinking in new directions, living another life which you have never thought that you could live. Whenever that has once happened to a man, he always must think of himself expectantly and reverently, not knowing what other yet unopened chambers there may be in his life.

2. Again, suggestiveness in books and men, with the corresponding power of receiving suggestions in the men whom they touch, involves

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the thoughts of how our endlessly various lives have a unity with one another in virtue of their power of responding to the same great simple influences. Some suggestive word out of this book will fall upon a score of lives some morning and will touch the key of each. Each will be better for it, but how differently. One will do better trading; another will do better teaching; another's household life will be more pure and lofty. The fire falls upon a hundred substances and each burns with the same fire, but with its own color. What could more illustrate how we are one beneath our differences than the sight of a single text or verse inspiring many different lives to be their best.

3. And as it displays the unity between different lives, so it brings out also the fact that each life is a unity when it is touched by and responds to some suggestive power. The engine seems a thousand things until the living steam is poured in upon it, and then it moves all together and shows that it is one thing.

You let the power of some fiery word in upon your life, and the grosser portions of you respond, and show that they are parts of the same nature with your finest feeling. Your morning prayer, your early greeting of your best friend, the single sentence from a glowing page fills the whole day with life. The drudgery of the hot noontime and the weary afternoon is fresher for it. The most mechanical occupations feel its power. The first dream in the new house colors all the hard experience which is to follow. And the pervading inspiration makes the whole life one.

4. This book provides for every day a text from Holy Scripture, and a few words from some English prose writer and a short piece of poetry. It is a good arrangement, in which each part has its meaning. The Bible is the oracle of souls. It is to countless men and women in some true sense the word of God, not to be reasoned with and questioned, but to be accepted with docility and faith. But the wise words of other literature are the utterances of thoughtful friends which we

freely question and discuss, often loving them for the spirit which they show, and the thought which they awaken, while we do not accept what they declare as truth. Meanwhile the poet has his own different value, opening glimpses of the soul of things and bidding us see how the special rests upon the universal, and the temporal on the eternal. In each of these three attitudes it is good for man to stand — in docility before a divine oracle, in serious discussion with a thoughtful friend, in spiritual readiness for the touch of genius. In all these ways the soul of man is fed. Shut either of these doors, and the soul of man is robbed and darkened. The book which opens all these doors and brings suggestiveness on every side, must scatter slumber, and win true gratitude from many who receive its blessing.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

HELPS BY THE WAY

JANUARY.

1. REPAIR the house of your God from year to year. — 2 *Chron.* xxiv. 5.

"It is thus each year of life comes to us — for each day a clean, white page; and we are artists whose duty it is to put something beautiful on the pages one by one; or we are historians, and must give to the page some record of work or duty or victory to enshrine and carry away."

"Swift years, but teach me how to bear,
To feel and act with strength and skill,
To reason wisely, nobly dare,
And speed your courses as ye will."

2. We have done that which was our duty to do. — *Luke* xxvii. 10.

Duty is measured by chance, and yet the essential idea of duty is never weakened. I am bound to do less than you, but I am just as surely bound to do my little as you are to do your much.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

What thou hast in store
This coming year, I do not stop to ask;
Enough if day by day there dawns before
Me my appointed task.

I seek not great things,
For I have learned how vain such seeking is;
But let me seek Thy will, O King of kings,
And find therein my bliss.

O. E. FULLER.

3. We are the clay, and Thou our potter. — *Isaiah* lxiv. 8.

The great Creator who gave us the rocks and the flowers that grow thereon, the rugged iron and the beauteous gem, He knows that each soul needs full development — the flower and the gem, the rock and the iron — or the whole being is incomplete.

Yes, the new days come, and the old days go,
And I the while rejoice,
For now 'tis the rose, and now 'tis the snow,
And now a sweet bird voice;
And now 'tis the heart of all that is sweet,
And then the shade of care —
And then 'tis a pain like the lightning fleet,
And then God's glory there.

W. BRUNTON.

4. The inward man is renewed day by day. — 2 *Cor.* iv. 16.

"An element of weakness in much of our resolving is, that we try to grasp too much of life at one time. We think of it as a whole instead of taking the days one by one. Life is a mosaic, and each tiny piece must be cut and set with skill."

I think not of to-morrow,
Its trial or its task;
But still with childlike spirit,
For present mercies ask.
With each returning morning,
I cast old things away;
Life's journey lies before me —
My prayer is for to-day.

5. Time and chance happeneth to them all. — *Eccl.* ix. 2.

The loss of time is the most hopeless and absolute loss we can sustain. Fortune may return after having taken her flight. But our hurried years can never come back to us from the grave. . . . There is but one point at which time is entirely in our power, and in submission to our will. That is at its beginnings.

S. P. HERRON.

"Time *was*, is past; thou canst not it recall.
Time *is*, thou hast; employ the portion small.
Time *future*, is not, and may never be:
Time present is the only time for thee."

6. That ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge. — *Eph.* iii. 17, 18, 19.

You must love, in order to understand love. One act of charity will teach us more of the love of God than a thousand sermons. One act of unselfishness, of real self-denial, will tell us more of the meaning of the Epiphany than whole volumes on theology.

F. W. ROBERTSON.

To the giver shall be given;
If thou wouldst walk in light
Make other spirits bright;
Who, seeking for himself alone, ever entered heaven?
In blessing we are blest,
In labor find our rest;
If we bend not to the world's work, heart and hand and brain,
We have lived our life in vain.

C. SEYMOUR.

7. I remembered Thy name, O Lord, in the night. — *Ps.* cxix. 55.

No pilgrim is without his night season. . . . . Trust God in the dark. This is the highest effort and triumph of faith. Whether it be the darkness engendered by bodily affliction or by inward trouble — physical, intellectual or spiritual. . . . Pray on, trust on, believe on, hope on, and the still small voice will in due time come.

J. R. MACDUFF.

"What need of faith, if all were visibly clear?
'Tis for the trial time that this was given.
Though clouds be thick, the sun is just as near,
And faith will find Him in the heart of heaven."

8. Be thankful unto Him, and bless his name. — *Ps.* c. 4.

We talk about the telescope of faith, but I think we want even more the microscope of watchful and grateful love. Apply this to the little bits of our daily lives, and how wonderfully they come out.

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.

I pray for love;
Deep love to God and man;
A love that will not fail,
However dark His plan.
That sees all life in Him,
Rejoicing in His power;
And faithful, though the darkest clouds
Of gloom and doubt may lower.

EDNAH CHENEY.

9. Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. — *James* i. 22.

Let us bring our Christianity down from the upper chambers of the intellect, where we have stored it, that it may come into life afresh. . . . Let our belief in Christ make us Christians. S. A. SMITH.

Be what thou seemest; live thy creed,
Hold up to earth the torch divine;
Be what thou prayest to be made;
Let the great Master's steps be thine.

HORATIO BONAR.

10. But when they in their trouble did turn unto the Lord God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them. — 2 *Chron.* xv. 4.

There are no times in life when opportunity, the chance to be and to do, gathers so richly about the soul as when it has to suffer. Then everything depends upon whether the man turns to the lower or the higher helps. . . . If he turns to God, the hour of suffering is the turning hour of his life.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

Noble souls, through dust and heat,
Rise from disaster and defeat
The stronger,
And conscious still of the divine
Within them lie on earth supine
No longer.

LONGFELLOW.

11. Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. — *Matt.* xxv. 40.

I see in this world two heaps — one of human happiness and one of misery; now if I can take but the smallest bit from the second heap, and add it to the first, I carry a point. If, as I go home, a child has dropped a half-penny, and by giving it another I can wipe away its tears, I feel that I have done something.

JOHN NEWTON.

"Patience! O questioning, wavering heart!
Good cheer and glad courage be thine!
The cup of cold water bestowed in His name,
Is sweeter than sacrifice, fairer than fame,
And the service itself is divine."

12. I will mention the loving kindnesses of the Lord.— *Isa.* lxiii. 7.

As jewels are treasured in the casket, to be brought forth on great occasions, so we should preserve the remembrance of our joys, and keep them for seasons when special consolations are wanted to cheer the soul.

JANE KIRKPATRICK.

Forget not all the sunshine of the way
By which the Lord hath led thee — answered prayers,
And joys unasked, strange blessings, lifted cares,
Grand promise echoes! Thus each page shall be
A record of God's love and faithfulness to thee.

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.

13. Judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling-block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.—*Rom.* xiv. 13.

The whole creation is following my life, is involved in my triumph. . . . Every little calumny or temptation I overcome, every weakness I uproot, brightens the future of the world. FREDERICK BROOKS.

Not to ourselves are we living;
Not to ourselves do we die;
Freely receiving as giving,
Soul after soul marches by—
Parts of one mighty procession
Stretching from Eden's first dawn
On through large curves of progression,
Till in the future it's gone,
Gone from earth's ken, past heat, past breath,
Into the life that is miscalled death.

W. M. L. JAY.

14. Not with eye service, as men-pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. —*Eph.* vi. 6.

"The brave man, in his own soul, will always try himself by the pure eyes and perfect witness of the all-judging God.

In all God's diadem
No star shines brighter than the kingly man,
Who nobly earns whatever crown he wears,
Who grandly conquers, or as grandly dies;
And the white banner of his manhood bears
Through all the years uplifted to the skies.

JULIA C. R. DORR.

15. What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? — *Matt.* xvi. 26.

Honor the soul. Truth is the beginning of all good; and the greatest of all evils is self-love; and the worst penalty of evil doing is to grow into likeness with the bad; for each man's soul changes, according to the nature of his deeds, for better or for worse.

PLATO.

Man is his own star; and the soul that can
Render an honest and a perfect man,
Commands all light, all influence, all fate;
Nothing to him falls early or too late.
Our acts our angels are; or good or ill,
Our fatal shadows that walk by us still.

BEAUMONT AND FLETCHER.

16. Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace. — *Job* xxii. 21.

"Nothing doth so establish the soul, amidst the rolling and turbulency of present things, as to both look above them and beyond them; above them to the steady and good hand by which they are ruled; and beyond them to the sweet and beautiful home to which by that hand we may be brought."

Life's sorrows still fluctuate: God's love does not,
And His love is unchanged when it changes our lot.
Looking up to this light which is common to all,
And down to those shadows on each side that fall
In Time's silent aisle, so various for each,
Is it nothing to know that they never can reach
So far but that light lies beyond them forever?

OWEN MEREDITH.

17. Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your rest.—*Micah* ii. 10.

Make use of time, if thou lovest eternity; know, yesterday cannot be recalled, to-morrow cannot be assured; to-day only is thine; one to-day is worth two to-morrows.

ENCHIRIDION.

Rise, for the day is passing,
And you lie dreaming on;
The others have buckled their armor,
And forth to fight have gone;
A place in the ranks awaits you,
Each man has some part to play;
The past and the future are nothing
In the face of the stern to-day.

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

18. I will hold thy hand, and will keep thee.—*Isa.* xlii. 6.

We talk about God's remembering us, as if it were a special effort. But if we could only know how truly we belong to God, it would be different. God's remembrance of us is the natural claiming of our life by Him as true part of His own. PHILLIPS BROOKS.

He doth give His joy to all,
He becomes an infant small,
He becomes a man of woe,
He doth feel the sorrow too.
Think not thou canst sigh a sigh,
And thy Maker is not nigh;
Think not thou canst weep a tear,
And thy Maker is not near.

BLAKE.

19. Alleluia; for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.— *Rev.* xix. 6.

Oh! that cheerful, childlike trust which believes that whatever storms shake earth or heaven, the everlasting pillars are not shaken. N. A. STAPLES.

Yet thou canst not know
And yet thou canst not see;
Wisdom and sight are slow
In poor humanity.
If thou couldst trust, poor soul,
In Him who rules the whole,
Thou wouldst find peace and rest:
Wisdom and sight are well, but trust is best.

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

20. Only if thou carefully hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.— *Deut.* xv. 5.

"Inside this half-finished house we are to live in, the Divine Architect has placed his working model, in accordance with which we are to carry on the building. . . . . This spirit which takes its stand by truth and righteousness, and ever urges the lower nature to higher and better things, this is to be the inspirer and regulator of our lives."

Sculptors of life are we, as we stand
With our souls uncarved before us,
Waiting the hour when at God's command
Our life dream passes o'er us.
If we carve it yet on the yielding stone,
With many a sharp incision,
Its heavenly beauty shall be our own,
Our lives — that angel vision.

BISHOP DOANE.

21. Being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work.—*James* i. 25.

Every man can help on the world's work more than he knows of. What we want is the single eye, that we may see what our work is, the humility to accept it, however lowly, the faith to do it for God, the perseverance to go on till death.

NORMAN McLEOD.

Here give me, Lord, some quiet place
Where I can work, and yet behold thy face;
While Thou wouldst have me stay,
Keep my feet steadfast in thy way;
They must not tire,
Till Thou shalt bid me "Come up higher!"

E. J. A.

22. I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.— 1 *Cor.* xv. 10.

It is every man's duty to discipline and guide himself with God's help. . . . Guided by the good example and good works of others, we must yet rely mainly upon our own efforts.

SAMUEL SMILES.

Art thou down? Low down?
In the desecrating dust,
Without a prop to aid thee
Or a friend in whom to trust?
Trust to thyself, forlorn one,
Stand upright on the sod,
And asking help from no man,
Secure the help of God.

CHARLES MACKAY.

23. Be it unto thee even as thou wilt. —*Matt.* xv. 28.

"There is dew in one flower and not in another, because one opens its cup and takes it in, while the other closes itself and the drops run off. God rains His goodness and mercy as wide-spread as the dew, and if we lack them, it is because we will not open our hearts to receive them."

"Even as thou wilt, so be it unto thee.
Thy heart the measure of the grace shall be
From my rich store supplied.

"She had the thing she would —
Lord, if I dip my cup into the sea,
It rises full. Such cup each soul may be,
Such ocean is Thy good."

24. Therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me. — *Ps.* xxxi. 3.

To follow God's guidance is to attain to true peace. Whatever faults cling to us through our lives are chiefly due to our self-will taking the government of our lives into its hands. As you increase in years, it will be a joy to be conscious that you have endeavored, however feebly, to walk with God.

T. D. Woolsey.

"Yet more and more this truth doth shine,
From failure and from loss,
The will that runs transverse to Thine
Doth thereby make its cross:
Thine upright will
Cuts straight and still
Through pride and dream and dross."

25. As ye have therefore received Jesus Christ, so walk ye in him. — *Col.* ii. 6.

"Every time the thought of Christ puts from us one temptation, every time an impure thought is suppressed by the thought of His purity, . . . every time some self-indulgence is put aside by the thought of His self-denial, the very life of God gains depth and power in our souls."

"The cloud which nearest to the moon doth lie,
Shineth the brightest in the midnight sky;
The pathway of that Christian is most bright
Which cleaveth closest unto Christ the Light."

26. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.— *Ps.* xix. 8.

Details may perplex our faith, but the grand whole does not. For the harmonies of things appear as we explore. Order in the calyx of the violet and in the bosom of the sun. Order everywhere, and law; and that law beneficence, securing harmony and peace, and working out steadily great ends.

E. H. CHAPIN.

"Still we study, always failing!
God can read it, we must wait;
Wait, until He teach the mystery,
Then the wisdom-woven history
Faith shall read, and love translate.

"Leaflets now unpaged and scattered
Time's great library receives;
When eternity shall bind them,
Golden volumes we shall find them,
God's light falling on the leaves."

27. That I might live unto God.— *Gal.* ii. 19.

"God asks no man whether he will accept life. That is not the choice. You *must* take it. The only choice is, *how*."

Who is the angel that cometh?
Life!
Let us not question what he brings,
Peace or strife,
Under the shade of his mighty wings.
We will arise and go forth to greet him,
Singing gladly, with one accord,
"Blessed is he that cometh
In the name of the Lord."

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

28. I am not alone, because the Father is with me.— *John* xvi. 32.

It is not difficult to get away into retirement, and there live upon your own convictions; nor is it difficult to mix with men and follow their convictions; but to enter into the world, and there live firmly and fearlessly according to your own conscience, that is Christian greatness.

F. W. ROBERTSON.

But more than sympathy, the truth I prize;
Above my friendships hold I God;
. . . . . .
So let my banner be again unfurled,
Again its cheerless motto seen,
"The world against me, I against the world."
Judge thou, dear Christ, between.

ATHANASIUS CONTRA MUNDUM.

29. Our Father which art in heaven. — *Matt.* vi. 9.

Christianity reaches down from heaven this golden ladder by which the loftiest soul and the lowliest intellect can begin to climb toward God — the ladder of the truth of God's paternity. E. H. CHAPIN.

"Dear name that binds us to the Infinite,
That grants us heirship to a grander life.
It holds us safe, even while we whisper it,
And hushes into peace all sense of strife.
Our Father cares for us, O restful thought —
O breath of balm, with heavenly healing fraught."

30. The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed. . . . which indeed is the least of all seeds; but when it is grown it is the greatest among herbs. — *Matt.* xiii. 31, 32.

Cast forth thy act, thy word, into the ever-living, ever working universe; it is a seed grain that cannot die; unnoticed to-day, it will be found flourishing as a banyan grove, perhaps, alas! as a hemlock forest — after a thousand years. CARLYLE.

"Nothing is lost; the tiniest seed,
By wild birds borne, or breezes blown,
Finds something suited to its need,
Wherein 'tis sown and grown.

"So with our deeds; for good or ill,
They have their power, scarce understood.
Then let us use our better will
To make them rife with good."

31. O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God. — *Rom.* xi. 33.

Where we are ignorant, God is wise; where we stand blindly in the dark, He is in the light; where we wonder, He calmly knows. PHILLIPS BROOKS.

"Great our need, but greater far
Is our Father's loving power;
He upholds each mighty star,
He unfolds each tiny flower.

"Ask not how, but trust Him still,
Ask not when, but wait His will,
Simply on His word rely,
God shall all your need supply."

FEBRUARY.

1. As thy days, so shall thy strength be.— *Deut.* xxxiii. 25.

No man ever sank under the burden of the day. It is when to-morrow's burden is added to the burden of to-day, that the weight is more than a man can bear. Never load yourselves so. If you find yourselves so loaded, at least remember this; it is your doing, not God's. He begs you to leave the future to Him and mind the present.

GEO. MACDONALD.

Bear the burden of the present —
Let the morrow bear its own;
If the morning sky be pleasant
Why the coming night bemoan?

Grief, nor pain, nor any sorrow
Rends thy heart to Him unknown
He to-day, and He to-morrow
Grace sufficient gives His own.

THOS. MACKELLAN.

2. Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. — *Ps.* cxix. 18.

Only he who in his heart is conscious of the grace of God, perceives that the world also is full of the wonders of His grace. O with what entirely new eyes is the book of nature now read. Everywhere it speaks of God.

If God thy inmost thought and being share,
The universe becomes thy book of prayer.

THOLUCK.

Thou who hast given me eyes to see
And love this sight so fair,
Give me a heart to find out Thee,
And read Thee everywhere.

KEBLE.

3. Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called. — *Eph.* iv. 1.

"We have one thing and only one to do here on earth — to win the character of heaven before we die."

"The openings of the streets of heaven are on earth."

"All things of use are bridges that conduct
To things of faith, which give them truest worth,
And Christ's own parables do us instruct
That Heaven is but the counterpart of earth.

"Then let us, passing o'er Life's fragile arch,
Regard it as a means, and not an end;
As but the path of faith on which we march
To where all glories of our being tend."

4. Unto the pure all things are pure; but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure. — *Titus* i. 15.

The soul spreads its own hue over everything; the shroud or wedding garment of nature is woven in the loom of our own feelings. Be noble-minded, and all Nature replies — I am divine, the child of God — be thou, too, His child, and noble. Be mean, and all Nature dwindles into a contemptible smallness. F. W. ROBERTSON.

We make the light through which we see
The light, and make the dark;
To hear the lark sing, we must be
At heaven's gate with the lark.

ALICE CARY.

5. Thou hast put gladness in my heart. — *Ps.* iv. 7.

"If you have any regard for that invitation and command which nature and creation are uttering day by day, and night by night, cultivate a spirit of cheerfulness."

"Serve God and be cheerful." Make brighter
The brightness that falls to your lot:
The rare or the daily sent blessing
Profane not with gloom and with doubt.

Serve God and be cheerful. The winter
Rolls round to the beautiful spring,
And o'er the grim grave of the snowdrift
The nest-building robins will sing.

WM. NEWELL.

6. For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all. — 1. *Cor.* ix. 19.

Others are affected by what I am and say and do. And these others have also their sphere of influence. So that a single act of mine may spread in widening circles through a nation or humanity. W. E. CHANNING.

May I reach
That purest heaven — be to other souls
The cup of strength in some great agony,
Enkindle generous ardor, feed pure love,
Beget the smiles that have no cruelty.
Be the sweet presence of a good diffused,
And in diffusion ever more intense!
So shall I join the choir invisible,
Whose music is the gladness of the world.

GEORGE ELIOT.

7. To every man his work. — *Mark* xiii. 34.

God will not call you to account for the four or five talents you have not received, but He will ask a strict account for that one which He has entrusted to you, and which is your special grace. GUILLORÉ.

"All cannot charge or lead the van,
All can be brave and true;
And where the Captain's standards wave
There's work for all to do;
And work from which thou may'st not flee,
Which must be done, and done by thee."

8. Death and life are in the power of the tongue. — *Prov.* xviii. 21.

What more passing than words? A breath! What very, very few words of ours rest with us. We forget them as soon as spoken; God does not forget them. They do God's work, or Satan's work on others; they pass in act; they abide in effect. DR. PUSEY.

Words are mighty, words are living,
Serpents with their venomous stings,
Or bright angels, crowding round us,
With heaven's light upon their wings;
Every word has its own spirit,
True or false, that never dies;
Every word man's lips have uttered
Echoes in God's skies.

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

9. Glory, honor and peace to every man that worketh good. — *Rom.* ii. 10.

Remember the power of indirect influences; those which distil from a life, not from a sudden, brilliant effort. The former never fail; the latter often. There is good done of which we can never predicate the when or where. It lies in the invisible influence on character which He alone can read who counted the seven thousand nameless ones in Israel. F. W. ROBERTSON.

"The good we hoped to gain has failed us — well,
We do not see the ending; and the boon
May wait us down the ages — who can tell?
And bless us amply soon.

In God's eternal plan, a month, a year,
Is but an hour of some slow April day,
Holding the germs of what we hope and fear
To blossom far away."

10. My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord. — *Ps.* v. 3.

I would ever awake with God; my first thoughts are for Him who hath made the night for rest, and the day for travail, and hath blessed both. If my heart be early seasoned with His presence, it will savor of Him all the day. BISHOP HALL.

Come, my soul, thou must be waking.
Now is breaking
O'er the earth another day;
Come to Him who made this splendor,
See thou render
All thy feeble powers can pay.

11. Be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. — 1. *Peter* v. 5.

God protecteth the humble and delivereth him; the humble he loveth and comforteth; unto the humble man he inclineth himself; unto the humble he giveth great grace; and after his humiliation he raiseth him to glory.

Á KEMPIS.

I have but thee, O Father! Let thy spirit
Be with me then, to comfort and uphold;
No gate of pearl, no branch of palm I merit,
Nor street of shining gold.

Suffice it if my good and ill unreckoned,
And both forgiven through thy abounding grace,
I find myself by hands familiar beckoned
Unto my fitting place.

J. G. WHITTIER.

12. And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.— *Heb.* vi. 15.

To be silent, to suffer, to pray when we cannot act, is acceptable to God. A disappointment, a contradiction, a harsh word received and endured as in his presence, is worth more than a long prayer.

FÉNELON.

'Tis well in deeds of good, though small, to thrive;
'Tis well some part of ill, though small to cure;
'Tis well with onward, upward hope to strive;
'Tis better and diviner to endure.

MILNES.

13. I will arise, and go to my father.—*Luke* xv. 18.

Be humble for the past, trust Him for the future. Think of thy former backslidings and tremble; think of His promised grace, and take courage.

J. R. McDUFF.

Hast thou wandered far
From thy Father's happy home,
With thyself and God at war?
Turn thee, brother, homeward come.

Hast thou wasted all the powers
God for noble uses gave?
Squandered life's most golden hours?
Turn thee, brother, God can save.

He can heal thy bitterest wound,
He thy gentlest prayer can hear;
Seek Him, for He may be found;
Call upon Him; He is near.

J. F. CLARKE.

14. Judge not according to the appearance.—*John* vii. 24.

"Whatever evil our neighbors suffer themselves to do, we can never know how much they are tempted to do which they effectually restrain. Could we know all that is resisted and all that is overcome . . . . we should often have to admire the virtue rather than condemn the fault."

"Where we see but the darkness of the mine,
God sees the diamond shine.

"Where we our voice in condemnation raise,
God may see fit to praise."

15. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.— 1 *John* iii. 24.

"What a joy to know that of all things and all thoughts God is nearest to us — so near that we cannot see Him, but far beyond seeing Him, can know of Him infinitely."

Full of rest the western breeze
Makes its music through the trees;
Thou canst feel its breathing warm,
But thine eyes behold no form.

In thine inner consciousness
Thou canst feel the sweet caress
Of thy Maker's constant care.
Shalt thou doubt because thine eyes
View no splendid vision rise
Glorifying all the air?

E. W. SHURTLEFF.

16. Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. — 1 *Cor.* xvi. 13.

"It is our chief difficulty about the formation of Christian character, that we do not give enough time to it. We do not make it sufficiently one continual work through our whole life. . . . We never outgrow the need of watchfulness till we come to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

Let no man think that sudden, in a minute,
All is accomplished, and the work is done.
Though with thine earliest dawn thou shouldst begin it,
Scarce were it ended in thy setting sun.

F. W. H. MYERS.

17. Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.—*Matt.* iv. 10.

There is one wish ruling over all mankind, and it is a wish which is never in any single instance granted — each man wishes to be his own master. It is a boy's beatific vision, and it remains the grown-up man's ruling passion to the last. But the fact is, life is a service; the only question is, whom will we serve? F. W. FABER.

"None e'er shall lack a service,
Who only seek His will;
And He doth teach His children
To suffer and be still.
In love's deep fount of treasures
Such precious things are stored,
Laid up for you, O blessed,
Who wait upon the Lord."

18. And be ye kind one to another. — *Eph.* iv. 32.

When the hour of trouble comes to the mind or the body, or when the hour of death comes, that comes to high and low, then it is not what we have done for ourselves, but what we have done for others, that we think on most pleasantly. SIR WALTER SCOTT.

A kind heart is a fountain of gladness, making everything in its vicinity to freshen into smiles.

IRVING.

That best portion of a good man's life,
His little, nameless, unremembered acts
Of kindness and of love.

WORDSWORTH.

19. We also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses. — *Heb.* xii. 1.

If we are with the right and for it, though all the world have gone over to the other side, the long line of ancestral and glorified men are behind us, and breathing upon us, troops of beautiful, tall angels to enshield us from all wrong. E. H. Sears.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lonely plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

E. H. Sears.

20. I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. — *Phil.* iv. 2.

"Do not offer to God a spirit dreaming of the great things you could do, or may do at some other time, but offer to Him your wakeful, rejoicing, present energies."

Thou cam'st not to thy place by accident;
It is the very place God meant for thee,
And should thou there small scope for action see,
Do not for this give room to discontent,
Nor let the time thou owest to God, be spent
In idly dreaming how thou mightest be
In what concerns thy spiritual life, more free
From inward hindrance or impediment.

R. C. Trench.

21. Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest. — 3 *John* 5.

"Though man can never attain to perfection, he will always be in a condition, if so disposed, to make continual advances toward it. His rule should be always to do his best; but his best of to-day is a better best than that of yesterday."

"With a high and holy purpose
Doing all thou hast to do;
Seeking ever man's upraising
With the highest end in view.

"Undepressed by seeming failure,
Unelated by success;
Heights attained, revealing higher,
Onward, upward, ever press."

22. Doing the will of God from the heart.— *Eph.* vi. 6.

In all the difficulties and crosses of my life, this is my consideration, since it is God's will, I do not only obey, but assent to it; nor do I comply out of necessity, but from choice. SENECA.

My God, my Father, while I stray
Far from my home, in life's rough way,
Oh teach me from my heart to say
"Thy will be done."

Renew my will from day to day;
Blend it with Thine, and take away
All that now makes it hard to say
"Thy will be done."

CHARLOTTE ELLIOT.

23. If a man die, shall he live again? —*Job.* xiv. 14.

It is a strange fact that the human mind has always held to the immortality of the soul, and yet has always doubted it. . . . Were the belief not true, the doubt would long since have vanquished it, for nothing but truth can endure constant questioning. THEODORE MUNGER.

Hearken! Hearken!
God speaketh in thy soul;
Saying, O thou that movest
With feeble steps across this earth of mine,
To break beside the fount thy golden bowl,
And spill its purple wine,
Look up to heaven and see how like a scroll
My right hand hath thy immortality
In an eternal grasping. MRS. BROWNING.

24. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass.— *Ps.* xxxvii. 5.

Only let the soul believe that God has a plan for humanity, and it can work in peace. It has the great support, then, of a faith that there is a Being who sees deeper, wider, farther, than the wisest mortal eye, and that there is a heart filled with an ocean of goodness, that will yet immerse humanity. T. STARR KING.

Through every web of life the dark threads run.
Oh, why and whither? God knows all;
I only know that He is good,
And that whatever may befall
Or here or there, must be the best that could.
J. G. WHITTIER.

25. And the men did the work faithfully.— 2 *Chron.* xxxiv. 12.

"We miss the best chances for doing good by fixing dates. The commonest days may be made immortal to us and to others by fidelity to every passing moment."

"Who's seen my day?
'Tis gone away,
Nor left a trace
In any place.
If I could only find
Its footfalls in some mind,
Some spirit nature stirred
By deed of mine or word,
I should not stand at shadowy eve,
And for my day so grieve and grieve."

26. The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.— *Ps.* cxlv. 18.

Though we do but lisp, even though we address God without opening our lips, we may cry to Him from the inmost recesses of the heart. When the whole direction of the inmost soul is toward God, he always hears.

CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA.

"He whom thou servest, slights
Not even His weakest one;
No deed, though poor, shall be forgot,
However feebly done.

"The prayer, the wish, the thought,
The faintly spoken word,
The plan that seemed to come to naught,
Each has its own reward."

27. The Lord will give strength unto his people.— *Ps.* xxix. 11.

"We grow able to do and bear that which it is needful we should do and bear. I have no fear for the Christian man who keeps to the path of duty. Straining up the steep hill, his heart will grow stout just in proportion to its steepness."

Though days to come may often be
With burdens crowded full for me;
Though hope deferred may cast a shade
Across my spirit, undismayed
I'll meet them one by one, for through
Such days he brought me hitherto.

M. E. SANGSTER.

28. Till we all come . . . into the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.— *Eph.* iv. 13.

"Coming nearer and nearer to Christ," we say; that does not mean creeping into a refuge where we can be safe. It means becoming better and better men; repeating His character more and more in ours. The only true danger is sin, and so the only true safety is holiness.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

To do Thy will is more than praise,
As words are less than deeds;
And simple trust can find thy ways
We miss with chart of creeds.
Our Friend, our Brother, and our Lord,
What may thy service be?
Nor name, nor form, nor ritual word,
But simply following thee.

J. G. WHITTIER.

29. Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. — 1 *Cor.* ii. 9.

Progress is our being's motto and hope. Gaining and losing in this world, rising and falling, enjoying and suffering, are but the incidents of life. Learning, aspiration, progress, is the life of life. Onward, then, pilgrims, to eternity. DR. DEWEY.

Eye hath not seen, ear heard, or heart conceived,
What God for those who love Him hath prepared;
Let us the steep ascent then boldly climb,
Our toil and labor will be well repaid;
Let us haste onward till in God's good time
We reap the fruit, a crown that doth not fade.

SPITTA.

1. For with such sacrifices God is well pleased. — *Heb.* xiii. 16.

For every progress in strenuous work for God, there must have been a slaying of the selfishness which urges us to work in our own strength and for our own sake.

F. D. HUNTINGTON.

"When my love for Christ grows weak,
When for stronger faith I seek,
Hill of Calvary, I go
To thy scenes of fear and woe:
Then to life I turn again,
Learning all the worth of pain,
Learning all the might that lies
In a full self-sacrifice."

2. My soul longeth, yea even fainteth for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. — *Ps.* lxxxiv. 2.

It seems to me we can never give up longing and wishing while we are thoroughly alive. There are certain things we feel to be beautiful and good, and we must hunger after them. GEORGE ELIOT.

Still, through our paltry stir and strife,
Glows down the wished Ideal,
And Longing moulds in clay what Life
Carves in the marble Real;
To let the new life in, we know
Desire must ope the portal;
Perhaps the longing to be so
Helps make the soul immortal. LOWELL.

3. Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.— *Mark* x. 15.

The truly great man is he who does not lose his child heart. He does not think beforehand that his words shall be sincere, nor that his actions shall be resolute: he simply always abides in the right. MENCIUS: CHINESE.

Quiet, Lord, my froward heart;
Make me teachable and mild,
Upright, simple, free from art;
Make me as a little child;
From distrust and envy free,
Pleased with all that pleases Thee.

NEWTON.

4. Behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. — *Ex.* xvi. 10.

Within every healing shadow is God himself; and so, though it seem to be a shadow of the sorest sorrow and pain, yet will it lift me upward and lead me into the light.

ROBERT COLLYER.

"Many shadows there be,
But each points to the sun;
The shadows are many,
The sunlight is one . . . . . .
Let us look to the light
Which is common to all,
And down to the shadows
That ever do fall,
Ay, even the darkest,
In this faith alone,
That in tracing the shadows
We find out the sun."

5. Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? — *Luke* xii. 6.

"The same God who moulded the sun and kindled the stars, watches the flight of the insect. He who gave Saturn his rings gives the rose leaf its delicate tint and made the distant sun to nourish the violet. And the same being notices the praises of the cherubim and the prayer of a little child."

Among so many, can He care?
Can special love be everywhere?
From the great spaces, vague and dim,
May one small household gather Him?
I asked: my soul bethought of this;
In just that very place of His
Where He hath put and keepeth you,
God hath no other thing to do.

A. D. T. WHITNEY.

6. Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of. —*Matt.* vi. 8.

Our present circumstances are to be looked upon as advantages which the great Disposer has afforded us, and not, as we are apt to think, impediments which He has thrown in our way. They are the materials with which we are to begin to build, and not a heap of rubbish that must be cleared out of the way before we lay the first stone in the edifice of our lives. S. P. HERRON.

The little worries which we meet each day
May lie as stumbling-blocks across our way;
Or we may make them stepping-stones to be
Of grace, O God, to Thee.

A. E. HAMILTON.

7. Behold, we count them happy which endure.—*James* v. 11.

Not in the achievement, but in the endurance of the human soul, does it show its divine grandeur, and its alliance with the Infinite God. E. H. CHAPIN.

Well to suffer is divine;
Pass the watchword down the line,
Pass the countersign, "Endure!"
Not to him who rashly dares,
But to him who nobly bears,
Is the victor's garland sure.

WHITTIER.

8. The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. — *Deut.* xxxiii. 27.

When we consider how weak we are in ourselves, yea, the very strongest of us, and how assaulted, we may justly wonder that we can continue one day in the state of grace; but when we look on the strength by which we are guarded, the power of God, then we see the reason of our stability to the end; for omnipotency supports us, and the everlasting arms are under us. R. LEIGHTON.

Everlasting arms of love
Are beneath, around, above;
God it is who bears us on,
His the arm we lean upon:
He, our ever present Guide,
Faithful is, whate'er betide;
Gladly, then, we journey on,
With His arm to lean upon.

9. For he clave to the Lord and departed not from following Him. — 2 *Kings* xviii. 6.

We want an aim which can never grow vile, an aim which cannot disappoint our hope. There is but one on earth, and it is that of being like God. He who strives after union with the perfect love must grow out of selfishness, and our success is secured in the omnipotent holiness of God. STOPFORD BROOKE.

"Nearer, my God, to thee:" the way
Hath many a lesson hard to learn;
No surface thoughts, no pleasures gay,
Can gild the pathway, true but stern.
"Nearer, my God." In that vast thought
The strength of ages slumbers deep:
The soul's best powers are there inwrought,
And God's own hand that soul shall keep.
E. M. HICKOK.

10. See that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. — *Heb.* viii. 5.

At any moment we may turn from the poor reality to the great ideal of our own lives, which is in Christ, with one earnest question, "Lord, what wouldst Thou have me to be?" We may pierce through the clouds and reach the summit, and there, seeing His vision of our possibilities. . . set to work to fulfil God's image of our lives, to be all that He has shown us that it is possible for us to be. PHILLIPS BROOKS.

"O God, work out Thy heavenly plan;
Within my soul unfold
The stature of the perfect man,
And thine own image mould."

11. Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God.— *Ps.* xlii. 11.

The grand current of events runs not downward or backward. The spirit within these rapid wheels of time, turning them this way and that, still moves them forward and to blessed ends. E. H. CHAPIN.

Though around our path some form
Of mystery ever lies,
And life is like the calm and storm
That checker earth and skies,
Through all its mingling joy and dread,
Permit us, Holy One,
By faith to see the golden thread
Of thy great purpose run.

E. H. CHAPIN.

12. Speak, for thy servant heareth. — 1. *Sam.* iii. 10.

To work rightly, to work effectually you must work from God, consciously, faithfully, piously, from God. His Christ must be your leader; his spirit your law; his will your motive. Not as of yourself alone, but out of him, must your power come. F. D. HUNTINGTON.

Few years, no wisdom, no renown,
Only my life can I lay down;
Only my heart, Lord, to thy throne I bring; and pray
A child of thine I may go forth,
And spread glad tiding through the earth,
And teach sad hearts to know thy worth!
Lord, here am I. C. WHITMARSH.

13. Where is the place of my rest? — *Isa.* lxvi. 1.

Thou hast made us for thyself, and our heart is restless till it resteth in Thee. ST. AUGUSTINE.

"Yet the heart turns away
From the grand destiny of bliss, and deems
'Twas made for its poor self, for passing dreams,
Chasing illusions, melting day by day,
Till, for ourselves, we read on this world's best
'This is not rest!'

"Nor can the vain toil cease,
Till in the shadowy maze of life, we meet
One who can guide our aching, wayward feet
To find Himself — our Way, our Life and Peace.
In Him the long unrest is soothed and stilled,
Our hearts are filled."

14. He that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal. — *John* iv. 36.

What a sublime doctrine it is that Goodness cherished now is Eternal Life already entered on! What can be more cheering and ennobling than the Trust that God appoints all changes as the means of a spiritual growth which is never to cease. What a happiness it is to feel assured that our education is going on perpetually.

W. E. CHANNING.

Strive to live well; tread in the upright ways,
And rather count thine actions than thy days.
When thou hast lived enough among us here,
For every day well spent I count a year;
Live well; and then, how soon soe'er thou die
Thou art of age to claim eternity.

THOMAS RANDOLPH

15. Rooted and built up in him. — *Col.* ii. 7.

Everything that raises our personal standard of thought and purpose, everything that brings us nearer to the stature of the completed one in Christ, increases our power for good, and makes us more and more a power in the world about us. When we crave the privilege of doing for others, it is well for us to realize the privilege of being for others.

It is not life upon Thy gifts to live,
But to grow fixed with deeper roots in Thee;
And when the sun and shower their bounties give
To send out thick-leaved limbs — a fruitful tree
Whose green head meets the eye for many a mile,
Whose moss-grown arms their rigid branches rear,
And full-faced fruits their blushing welcome smile,
As to its goodly shade our feet draw near.

JONES VERY.

16. Son, go work to-day in my vineyard. — *Matt.* xxi. 28.

Remember now and always that life is no idle dream, but a solemn reality based upon eternity and encompassed by eternity. Find out your task; stand to it; the night cometh when no man can work. CARLYLE.

Life has import more inspiring
Than the fancies of thy youth:
It has hopes as high as heaven,
It has labors, it has truth.

It has wrongs that may be righted,
Noble deeds that may be done:
Its great battles are unfought,
Its great triumphs are unwon.

A. C. L. BOTTA.

17. I must work the work of him while it is day. — *John* ix. 4.

It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait. — *Lam.* iii. 26.

Beautiful is the activity which works for good, and beautiful the stillness which waits for good: blessed the self-sacrifice of the one, and blessed the self-forgetfulness of the other. ROBERT COLLYER.

O power to do! O baffled will!
O prayer and action! ye are one.
Who may not strive, may yet fulfill
The harder task of standing still,
And good but wished with God is done.
WHITTIER.

They also serve, who only stand and wait. MILTON.

18. The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened. — *Matt.* xiii. 33.

It is almost impossible to calculate the results from our separate efforts, there are so many things to be taken into account, so many hidden springs of influence — and we have to search out effects over so wide a surface which does not come within our vision. We must work on with faith in that which we cannot see. S. A. SMITH.

This learned I from the shadow of a tree
That to and fro did sway upon a wall,
Our shadow selves, our influence may fall
Where we can never be. A. E. HAMILTON.

19. The labor of the righteous tendeth to life.—*Prov.* x. 16.

We may lose the things we strive after to-day, . . . but if we bear patiently the burdens, taking the heartache if it comes, being faithful in the midst of the conditions where God has placed us, living nobly to ourselves and our fellowmen, we shall have built up for ourselves characters of divine finish, divine beauty and divine glory.

M. J. SAVAGE.

Strive; yet I do not promise
The prize you dream of to-day
Will not fade when you think to grasp it,
And melt in your hand away;
But another and holier treasure,
You would not perchance disdain,
Will come when your toil is over,
And pay you for all your pain.

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

20. Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. *2 Cor.* x. 5.

That any act of religious aspiration should be efficacious or acceptable, it appears that only two things are necessary — not unhesitating and entire faith, . . . not absolute virtue . . . but sincere earnestness and a will struggling to obey in all things the will and law of God.

FRANCES POWER COBBE.

Let our deeds be syllables
Of the prayer our spirit swells
In us Thy desire fulfill;
By us work Thy gracious will.

LUCY LARCOM.

21. He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit, than he that taketh a city. — *Prov.* xvi. 32.

Oh! fine and delicate and manifold and much entangled are the tissues of life which surround us; . . . he who walks through life with an even temper and a gentle patience, patient with himself, patient with others, patient with difficulties and crosses, he has an everyday greatness beyond that which is won in battles or chanted in cathedrals.

DR. DEWEY.

"No laurel decks the brow,
Nor trump of fame
Sounds to posterity
His humble name.

But truly great the man,
A conqueror he,
Who over self obtains
The mastery."

22. . . . He is not here for he is risen. — *Matt.* xxviii. 5–6.

"The severing of dear earthly ties may be the means of opening up the first vista views of a glorious future. Those once mourned as loved and lost are now thought of only as loved and glorified; or lost from sight only to be found again."

O thou, by winds of grief o'erblown,
Beside some golden summer's bier,
Take heart! Thy birds are only flown,
Thy blossoms sleeping, tearful sown,
To greet thee in the immortal year.

EDNA DEAN PROCTER.

23. To be ready to every good work. — *Titus* iii. 31.

"No day is commonplace if we had only eyes to see its splendor. There is no duty that comes to our hand but brings to us the possibility of kingly service. . . . There is nothing possible to a human soul greater than simple faithfulness."

"Of thy presence and thy love
We more steadfast feeling need,
Till the high and holy thought
Hallow every simplest deed.
In our work and in our homes
Christian men we fain would be;
Learn how daily life affords
Noblest opportunity."

24. Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. — *James* i. 4.

Enter into the sublime patience of the Lord. Be charitable in view of it. God can afford to wait; why cannot we, since we have Him to fall back upon?

GEORGE MACDONALD.

"O make me patient, Lord,
Patient in daily cares;
Keep me from thoughtless words
That slip out unawares.

And help me, Lord, I pray,
Still nearer Thee to live:
And as I journey on,
More of thy presence give."

25. For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love. — *Heb.* vi. 10.

We want a fuller confidence bringing a deeper joy, that what is done from a conscientious purpose will come back to cast hues of brightness over the evening sky, even though many a cloud may have darkened the day.

C. C. H.

Oh! what a glory doth this world put on
For him who with a fervent heart goes forth
Under the bright and glorious sky, and looks
On duties well performed, and days well spent!
For him the wind, ay! and the yellow leaves,
Shall have a voice and give him eloquent teachings.
He shall so hear the solemn hymn, that Death
Has lifted up for all, that he shall go
To his last resting-place without a tear.

LONGFELLOW.

26. For none of us liveth to himself and no man dieth to himself. — *Rom.* xiv. 7.

"We ascend by one another. We live by one another's blessings, as we die by one another's cursings. No man liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. We live and die not only to God but to each other."

Wherever in this world I am,
In whatsoe'er estate,
I have a fellowship with hearts
To keep and cultivate.
A work of lowly love to do
For Him on whom I wait.

ANNA L. WARING.

27. In the way of righteousness is life. — *Prov.* xiii. 28.

It is not life to wake and sleep and devour. Unless the tree grows, though it were in December, it does not live. But if I seek God,— nay, if I serve God, if I use to Infinite Purpose the Infinite Power which I have and know I have, I find what life is. E. E. HALE.

If life be as a flame that death doth kill,
Burn, little candle, lit for me
With a pure flame, that I may rightly see
To word my song and utterly
God's plan fulfil.

If life be as a voyage, foul or fair
Oh bid me not my banners furl
For adverse gale, or wave in angry whirl,
Till I have found the gates of pearl
And anchored there. C. W. STODDARD.

28. Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. — 2. *Cor.* xiii. 5.

There is a great gain to be obtained by the practice of nightly self scrutiny. He who seeks to "know himself" must study day by day the details of his moral health, he who desires to lay up "treasures in heaven," must allow no waste of his soul's wealth to pass unheeded.

FRANCES POWER COBBE.

Suffer not gentle sleep to close thine eyes,
E'er thou hast thrice reviewed the labors of the day.
What hast thou learned? What done? What duty neglected?
For the evil thou hast done, repent, for the good, rejoice.

GOLDEN VERSES.

29. That nothing be lost. — *John* vi. 12.

All things "work together." . . . Many different colors, in themselves raw and unsightly, are required to weave the harmonious pattern. . . . Take a thread separately, and there may be neither use nor beauty discernible. But complete the web, and you see how perfect and symmetrical is the result. J. R. MACDUFF.

So, at the loom of life, we weave
Our separate threads, that varying fall,
Some stained, some fair; and, passing, leave
To God the gathering up of all.
. . . . . .
In His vast work, for good or ill,
The undone and the done He blends,
With whatsoever woof we fill,
To our weak hands His might He lends,
And gives the threads beneath His eye,
The texture of eternity. LUCY LARCOM.

30. Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. — *Col.* iv. 5.

What is meant by redeeming time? It is to fill the hours full of the richest freight, to fill them with the life of thought, feeling, action, as they pass by. One moment of self-conquest, one good action really done, yes, one effort to do right, really made, has the seal of time put on it.
J. F. CLARKE.

"Will the shade go back on thy dial plate?
Will thy sun stand still on his way?
Both hasten on; and thy spirit's fate
Rests on the point of life's little date:
Then live while 'tis called to-day."

31. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. — *Ps.* xxx. 5.

Be not over-anxious! But, if hitherto thou hast not been quite happy, reflect that things are ever changing. If darkness reign around thee at present, be comforted, in a few days all will be brighter. Take a full survey of thy present painful position, reflect on thy tribulations, and then see whether thou hast lost all! Nay. And even hadst thou lost all else, thou hast not lost God. Why therefore despair? ZSCHOKKE.

Be still, sad heart! and cease repining;
Behind the clouds is the sun still shining;
Thy fate is the common fate of all,
Into each life some rain must fall,
Some days must be dark and dreary.

LONGFELLOW.

There are nettles everywhere,
But smooth green grasses are more common still;
The blue of heaven is larger than the cloud.

E. B. BROWNING.

APRIL.

1. What house will ye build me? saith the Lord. — *Acts* vii. 49.

If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be; now put foundations under them. THOREAU.

Build up, Soul, a lofty stair;
Build a room in healthier air.
Here there is no rest;
Better climbs to best.
Thy friends shall be the eternal stars;
They greet thee through thy casement bars;
Thy homesick feet they lead
Where thou no house wilt need.

LUCY LARCOM.

2. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne. — *Rev.* iii. 21.

Our times of greatest pleasure are when we have won some higher peak of difficulty, trodden under foot some evil, and felt day by day, so sure a growth of moral strength within us that we cannot conceive of an end of growth.

STOPFORD BROOKE.

Nor can I count him happiest who has never
Been forced with his own hand his chains to sever,
And for himself find out the way divine;
He never knew the aspirer's glorious pains,
He never earned the struggle's priceless gains.

LOWELL.

3. Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and that ye break every yoke? — *Is.* lviii. 6.

This is our Lenten task — the utterance of penitence and the opening of doors to God. It must be very sacred; not formal, but alive and glorified with motive. . . . It must be very reasonable; not unfitting the body for any good work, but making it a more and more perfect instrument for the soul. PHILLIPS BROOKS.

'Tis a fast to dole
Thy sheaf of wheat
And meat
Unto the hungry soul.
To show a heart grief-rent;
To starve thy sin,
Not bin;
And that's to keep thy Lent. HERBERT.

4. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? — *Ps.* cxxxix. 7.

If we cannot find God in your house and mine, upon the roadside or the margin of the sea; in the bursting seed or opening flower; in the day-duty and the night musing; I do not think we should discern Him any more on the grass of Eden, or beneath the moonlight of Gethsemane.
JAMES MARTINEAU.

Henceforth my heart shall sigh no more
For olden time and holier shore;
God's love and blessing then and there,
Are now and here and everywhere.
J. G. WHITTIER.

5. He shall choose our inheritance. — *Ps.* xlvii. 4.

"Things are not half so unequal as some people imagine. What is wrong here will be righted there. God may seem slow, but He is building men's characters for an eternal life."

"God's plans, like lilies, pure and white unfold;
We must not tear the close-shut leaves apart,
Time will reveal the calyxes of gold;
And if through patient toil we reach the land
Where tired feet with sandals loosed may rest,
Where we shall clearly know and understand,
I think that we shall say, 'God knew the best.'"

6. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. — *Matt.* v. 8.

You need not go far to learn how you may gain more vivid views of God. The sin that now rises to memory as your bosom sin, let this first of all be withstood and mastered. Such a spiritual conflict, trifling though it may appear, will do more than can all other influences combined, to fit you for a near, strong, affectionate intimacy with your God.

W. E. CHANNING.

As of old
He walks with men apart,
Keeping the promise as foretold
With all the pure in heart.

Thou needst not ask the angels where
His habitations be;
Keep thou thy spirit clean and fair
And He shall dwell with thee.

ALICE CARY.

7. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. — *Heb.* iv. 9.

Let the prospect of a dwelling "in the house of the Lord forever" reconcile thee to any of the roughnesses or difficulties in thy present path, . . . lead thee to forget the intervening billows, or to think of them only as wafting thee nearer and nearer to thy desired haven.

J. R. MacDuff.

Homeward the swift-winged seagull takes her flight,
The ebbing tide breaks softer on the sand;
The red-sailed boats draw homeward for the night,
The shadows deepen over sea and land.
Be still, mine soul, thine hour shall also come;
Behold, one evening God shall lead thee home. H. M.

8. I will never leave thee. — *Heb.* xiii. 5.

It is a great thing, when our Gethsemane hours come, when the cup of bitterness is present to our lips, and when we pray that it may pass away, to feel that it is not fate, that it is not necessity, but divine love for good ends, working upon us. E. H. Chapin.

All those who journey, soon or late
Must pass within the garden's gate;
Must kneel alone in darkness there,
And battle with some fierce despair.
God pity those who cannot say,
"Not mine, but thine," who only pray
"Let this cup pass," and cannot see
The purpose in Gethsemane.

Ella Wheeler.

9. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.— *Matt.* xxiv. 13.

It should not seem to be so very wonderful a thing that men could attain to the ability to say, "I am willing to die." . . . It seems to me a much better, grander, and nobler thing to say, "I am willing and ready to live, right here, to-day, in my circumstances; ready to take up my burden, to carry my load, to do my work, to wait God's time. M. J. SAVAGE.

Blessed are they who die for God,
And win the martyr's crown of light;
Yet he who lives for God may be
A greater conqueror in his sight.
ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

10. Cast thy burden upon the Lord. — *Ps.* lv. 22.

The cloud that veils full knowledge is "a cloud of love." How wisely and kindly God has unrolled the volume of life, and stood by us and strengthened us when we had hard things to read in it. . . . It may help us to be less distrustful about what things lie still before us. When He lets us know them, He will enable us to bear them.
JOHN KER.

"In the yet to be, how much of joy or sorrow,
Awaiteth me, God knows alone.
How kindly hath He o'er the darkest morrow
Hope's cheering mystery thrown.

When strength sufficient for the burden given
He mercifully bestows,
I will not doubt His love, though ties be riven;
My need He knows."

11. Ye are the light of the world.— *Matt.* v. 14.

The doors of your soul are open on others and theirs on you. . . . Simply to be in this world, whatever you are, is to exert an influence,— an influence too, compared with which mere language and persuasion are feeble.

HORACE BUSHNELL.

"We know not half the power for good or ill
Our daily lives possess o'er one another,
A careless word may help a soul to kill
Or by one look we may redeem our brother.

'Tis not the great things that we do or say,
But idle words forgot as soon as spoken;
And little thoughtless deeds of every day
Are stumbling-blocks on which the weak are broken."

12. Your labor is not in vain in the Lord.— 1 *Cor.* xv. 58.

O, there are some who want to get away from all their past; who, if they could, would fain begin all over again. . . . But you must learn, you must let God teach you, that the only way to get rid of your past is to get a future out of it. God will waste nothing. PHILLIPS BROOKS.

Standing on what too long we bore
With shoulders bent and downcast eyes,
We may discern — unseen before —
A path to higher destinies.

Nor deem the irrevocable Past
As wholly wasted, wholly vain,
If, rising on its wrecks, at last
To something nobler we attain.

LONGFELLOW

13. I will be with him in trouble.— *Ps.* xci. 15.

It is not from the tall crowded warehouse of prosperity, that men first or clearest see the eternal stars of heaven. It is often from the humble spot where we have laid down our dear ones that we find our best observatory, which gives us glimpses into the far-off world of never-ending time. THEODORE PARKER.

The curtain of the dark
Is pierced by many a rent;
Out of the star-wells, spark on spark
Trickles through night's torn tent.

Grief is a tattered tent
Wherethrough God's light doth shine
Who glances up, at every rent
Shall catch a ray divine.

LUCY LARCOM.

14. Quit yourselves like men. — 1 *Sam.* iv. 9.

The difficulties and trials we encounter in life, and the weaknesses found in our character, wage against us a form of warfare. These are enemies that must be braved and vanquished upon their own ground. . . . The advantage is all our own in seeking the conflict; it is theirs if we decline it. S. P. HERRON.

Sit not like a mourner, brother, by the grave of that dead Past:
Throw the Present; 'tis thy servant only when 'tis overcast.
Give battle to the leaguéd world: if thou'rt worthy, truly brave,
Thou shalt make the hardest circumstance a helper or a slave. ALEXANDER SMITH.

15. The Lord .... will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom.— 2 *Tim.* iv. 18.

Wherefore, O judges, be of good cheer about death, and know of a certainty that no evil can happen to a good man either in life or after death. SOCRATES.

Seest thou the eastern dawn,
Hear'st thou in the red morn
The angels' song?
Oh lift thy drooping head
Thou who in gloom and dread
Hast lain so long.

Death comes to set thee free.
Oh meet him cheerily,
As thy true friend.
And all thy fears shall cease,
And in eternal peace
Thy penance end.

"SINTRAM."

16. Though he be not far from every one of us.— *Acts* xvii. 27.

All men are not spiritual men; but all have spiritual sensibilities which might awake. All that is wanted is to become conscious of the nearness of God. . . . Our souls float in the immeasurable ocean of spirit. God lies around us: at any moment we might be conscious of the contact. F. W. ROBERTSON.

"Often when we feel alone,
No help nor comfort near,
'Tis only that our eyes are dim;
Doubting and sad, we see not Him
Who waiteth still to hear.

17. Serving the Lord with all humility of mind.— *Acts* xx. 19.

If I do what I may in earnest, I need not mourn if I work no great work on the earth. To help the growth of a thought that struggles towards the light; to brush with gentle hand the earth stain from the white of one snowdrop — such be my ambition!

GEORGE MACDONALD.

Then let my feet be swift to run for Thee,
My hands essay Thy lowliest work to do,
My heart be warm with love, my gladness be
To hear Thy voice and know its accents true.
And still where Thou shalt summon, may I go,
O Friend Divine, thrice blest to serve Thee so.

MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

18. He that gathereth by labor shall increase.— *Prov.* viii. 2.

The very difficulties of life, of which we are so apt to complain, are converted into the means of that discipline, that self-improvement, which is the great end of life. Let a man's present desires be met and satisfied without any exertion on his part, and he would be content to remain as he is. Progress is the child of struggle, and struggle is the child of difficulty. JAMES WALKER.

"For each net, vainly cast,
Stronger thine arm shall prove;
The trial of thy patient hope
Is witness of thy love.

19. Let us go on unto perfection.— *Heb.* vi. 1.

Let a man begin in earnest with — I ought — he will end, by God's grace if he persevere, with the free blessedness of — I will. Let him force himself to abound in small offices of kindliness, affectionateness, by and by he will feel them become the habit of his soul.

F. W. ROBERTSON.

Let me find in Thy employ
Peace that dearer is than joy;
Out of self to love be led,
And to heaven acclimated
Until all things sweet and good
Seem my natural habitude. WHITTIER.

20. And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday; and the Lord shall guide thee continually.— *Is.* lviii. 10, 11.

Doing nothing for others is the undoing of one's self. We must be purposely kind and generous, or we miss the best part of existence. The heart that goes out of itself gets large and full of joy. This is the great secret of the inner life. We do ourselves the most good doing something for others. HORACE MANN.

Wherever upward, even the lowest round,
Man by a hand's help lifts his feebler brother,
There is the house of God, and holy ground:
The gate of heaven is Love: there is no other.
When generous acts bloom from unselfish thought,
The Lord is with us, though we know it not.

LUCY LARCOM.

21. Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thy heart.— *Ps.* xxvii. 14.

It is our Maker's care that plants alike thorns and flowers in our path. To reject His flowers would be no less unfilial than to repine at His thorns. We can accept them all in childlike love and grateful submission.

FRANCES POWER COBBE.

Let nothing make thee sad or fretful,
Or too regretful;
Be still.
What God hath ordered must be right,
Then find in it thine own delight
My will.

PAUL FLEMING.

22. I was brought low, and he helped me.— *Ps* cxvi. 6.

"When I lie down at night, when I arise in the morning, oh give me grace to feel Thou hast sent the toil, Thou hast given the cross, just this very cross I am bearing now, trivial though it may seem;— that Thou art working out by its means some great end of Thine own, for my good. Grant me to feel this, and then new strength will spring up in me, to endure, to hope, to wait."

"My feet are weary in their daily rounds,
My heart is weary of its daily care,
My sinful nature often doth rebel;
I pray for grace my daily cross to bear.

"It is not heavy, Lord, yet oft I pine;
It is not heavy, but 'tis everywhere;
By day and night each hour my cross I bear;
I dare not lay it down — Thou keepest it there."

23. We are the children of God; and if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.— *Rom.* viii. 16, 17.

Children of nature, we are also sons of God; . . . To wear away life in unproductive harmlessness is innocent no more; with the glory we take the cross. We too, like our great leader, must be made perfect through suffering, but the hour of exceeding sorrow will prepare the day of godlike strength. JAMES MARTINEAU.

God draws a cloud over each gleaming morn;
Would you ask why?
It is because all noblest things are born
In agony.

Only upon some cross of pain and woe
God's son may lie;
Each soul, redeemed from self and sin, must know
Its Calvary.

FRANCES POWER COBBE.

24. Perfect through sufferings.— *Heb.* ii. 10.

The cross of Christ is the pledge to us that the deepest suffering may be the condition of the highest blessing; the sign, not of God's displeasure, but of His widest and most compassionate love. DEAN STANLEY.

Through sorrow, and through loss, by toil and prayer,
Saints won the starry crowns, which now they wear.
And by the bitter ministry of pain,
Grievous and harsh, but oh! not sent in vain,
Found their eternal gain. W. H. BURLEIGH.

25. Christ in you, the hope of glory.— *Col.* i. 27.

Heaven begun is the living proof that makes the heaven to come credible. It is the eagle eye of faith which penetrates the grave, and sees far into the tranquil things of death. He alone can believe in immortality who feels the resurrection in him already. F. W. ROBERTSON.

Thy spirit is a breathing of thy God,
Pulsating in its chrysalis of clay.
The dust that tires thy feet that onward plod
Is of the night, but thou art of the day.
Oh, let henceforth that day from Him grow fair,
And thou shalt hold an inner Easter there.
E. W. SHURTLEFF.

26. Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.— *Mark* xii. 34.

There are glimpses of Heaven granted to us by every act, or thought, or word, which raises us above ourselves — which makes us think less of ourselves and more of others, which has taught us of something higher and truer than we have in our own hearts. DEAN STANLEY.

They whose hearts are whole and strong,
Loving holiness,
Living clean from soil of wrong,
Wearing truth's white dress,—
They unto no far-off height
Wearily need climb;
Heaven to them is close in sight
From these shores of time.
LUCY LARCOM.

27. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.—*Matt.* vi. 10.

It is a great thing to feel, in our human sorrows, that it is not fate that is trying us, but our dear Father who is dealing with us, working out for us his good ends. It is the sublimest power man ever puts forth, to be able to say, "Not my will, but thine, be done." When we can say it in the spirit in which Christ said it, we are the conquerors of the world. LATHROP.

All as God wills, who wisely heeds,
To give or to withhold,
And knoweth more of all my needs
Than all my prayers have told.

J. G. WHITTIER.

28. One day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.— 2. *Peter* iii. 8.

In the mighty cycles in which God works, our years and ages are moments. And so shall we give up our hope of heaven and progress because it is so slow, when we remember that God has innumerable ages before Him? Or our hopes for our own personal improvement when we recollect our immortality? F. W. ROBERTSON.

Mighty God, the first, the last,
What are ages in Thy sight
But as yesterday when past,
Or a watch within the night?
Whatsoe'er our lot may be,
Calmly in this thought we'll rest,—
Could we see as Thou dost see,
We should choose it as the best.

W. GASKELL.

29. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption, but he that soweth to the Spirit, shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.—*Gal.* vi. 8.

"Events are only winged shuttles which fly from one side of the loom of life to the other, bearing the many colored threads out of which the fabric of our character is made."

"Men weave in their own lives the garments which they must wear in the world to come."

"A weaver sat at his loom,
Flinging his shuttle fast;
And a thread that should wear till the hour of doom
Was added at every cast."

30. Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land.—*Ps.* ci. 6.

In all sorts of husks and shells, hard, withered and dead, God sees a goodness we are always missing. When He goes forth with His reapers, to gather His harvest, He looks as lovingly now as once He looked through the eyes of Christ, His Son, for all the good there is anywhere. There may be only a single grain in October where He put in a grain in March; He bids His angels gather that as carefully as if it were an hundred fold.

ROBERT COLLYER.

"So will I gather strength and hope anew,
For I do know God's patient love perceives
Not what we did, but what we tried to do;
And though the ripened ears be sadly few,
He will accept our sheaves."

MAY.

1. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father, which speaketh in you.—*Matt.* x. 20.

How sure it is that if we say a true word, instantly we feel it is God's, not ours, and pass it on.

E. B. BROWNING.

"Only one little word;
But it stirred the depths of a living heart,
And there through the years and the changes of life,
With its blessing and glory, its darkness and strife,
The *soul* of that little word shall abide
And nevermore depart."

2. I girded thee, though thou hast not known me.—*Isa.* xlv. 5.

God has a definite life plan for every human person, girding him, visibly or invisibly, for some exact thing, which it will be the true significance and glory of his life to have accomplished. . . . Away then, O man, with thy feeble complaints and feverish despondencies. If God is really preparing us all to become that which is the very highest and best thing possible, there ought never to be a discouraged or uncheerful being in the world.

HORACE BUSHNELL.

I pray in me fulfil
Thy purpose true, and hold me still,
So thou canst work in me
The thing which thou dost see
Must nearest bring this soul to thee.

O. L. M. G.

3. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.— *Ps.* xix. 14.

Oh, my friends, what is our purpose in life, yours and mine? . . . . Is it something which this life has given and shaped, and will take? . . . . Or is it the one eternal purpose of God, which is above this life, which was that for which this life was made, which uses it, and yet is superior to it, and can survive its loss and win the triumph in death and a new life.

FREDERICK BROOKS.

As years form circles in the forest tree,
Each year we see,
Within us, out of sight,
Formeth a circle for eternity,
Dark or bright. A. E. HAMILTON.

4. Take up his cross daily.— *Luke* ix. 23.

A holy life is the very gate of heaven. But let us always remember that holiness does not consist in doing uncommon things, but in doing everything with purity of heart. It is made up of relative duties, and habitual devotion. CARDINAL MANNING.

Ah! more than martyr's aureole,
And more than hero's heart of fire,
We need the humble strength of soul
Which daily toils and ills require.
Sweet Patience! grant us, if you may,
An added grace for every day.

ELIZ. A. ALLEN.

5. The whole earth is full of His glory.— *Isa.* vi. 3.

To understand the simplest work of God, the Universe must be comprehended. Each minutest particle speaks of the Infinite One, and utters the divinest truth which can be declared on earth or in heaven. CHANNING.

Flower in the crannied wall,
I pluck you out of the crannies ; —
Hold you here, root and all, in my hand,
Little flower, — but if I could understand
What you are, root and all, and all in all,
I should know what God and man is.

TENNYSON.

6. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me : it is high, I cannot attain unto it. — *Ps.* cxxxix. 6.

That with all our religious certainties there are still great mysteries through which we must slowly and cautiously grope our way, is the source of joy and hope to every thoughtful soul. It is only in our tired moments that we wish every thing had been learned, and that not a single word of the Lord remained to be studied.

R. METCALF.

The seedlet of the rose
While still beneath the ground,
Think you it ever knows
The mystery profound
Of its own power of birth and bloom,
Until it springs above its tomb?
'Tis not that God loves mystery.
The things beyond us we can never know
Until up to their lofty height we grow,
And finite grasps infinity. M. J. SAVAGE.

7. Help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on thee.—2 *Chron.* xiv. 11.

When great trials are in view, we run simply and immediately to our all sufficient Friend, feel our dependence, and cry in good earnest for help; but if the occasion seems small, we are too apt secretly to lean to our own wisdom and strength. . . . Therefore in these we often fail.

JOHN NEWTON.

Not only for some task sublime
Thy help do I implore;
Not only at some solemn time
Thy holy spirit pour!

But for each daily task of mine
I need Thy quickening power;
I need Thy presence everywhere,
I need Thee every hour. T. H. GILL.

8. We are the people of his pasture.—*Ps.* xcv. 7.

Every nook of the mountain, every grassy knoll,—ay, too, and every bleak corner of these pasture grounds—are known to Him. As an old writer quaintly says, "He leads us in, He leads us through, He leads us on, He leads us up, He leads us home!" J. R. MACDUFF.

"He leads us on,
By paths we did not know,
Upward He leads us, though our steps be slow,
Though oft we faint and falter on the way,
Though storms and darkness oft obscure the day,
Yet when the clouds are gone,
We know He leads us on."

9. For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.—*Rom.* ii. 13.

Do not gaze backward, nor pause to contemplate anxiously what is in front, but move. If you are faithful God will carry you through. Work, and you shall believe. Do, and you shall know. You will be guided to the best convictions by being heartily engaged in an obedient service. O. B. FROTHINGHAM.

Work, and thou wilt bless the day
Ere the toil be done;
They that work not cannot play,
Cannot feel the sun.
God is living, working still;
All things work and move;
Work, would'st thou their beauty feel
And thy Maker's love. C. A. DANA.

10. I am thy shield.—*Gen.* xv. 1.

Man cannot well face life without some shield between. He may fight ever so bravely but the spears of life will be too many and too sharp for him. And no shield will thoroughly defend him but God. The weakest calls out for the strongest. THEODORE MUNGER.

"Man, in his weakness, needs a stronger stay
Than fellowmen, the holiest and the best.
And yet we turn to them from day to day,
As if in them our spirits could find rest.

"Help us, O Lord! with patient love to bear
Each other's faults, to suffer with true meekness,
Help us each other's joys and griefs to share,
But let us turn to Thee alone in weakness."

11. If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.—*Luke* ix. 23.

You and I working in our several spheres and toiling for earth, may toil also for heaven, and every day's work may be a Jacob's ladder reaching up nearer to our God.

THEODORE PARKER.

All common things, each day's events
That with the hour begin and end,
Our pleasures and our discontents
Are rounds by which we may ascend.

We have not wings, we cannot soar;
But we have feet to scale and climb
By slow degrees, by more and more
The cloudy summits of our time.

LONGFELLOW.

12. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.— *Matt.* x. 38.

The cross is always ready and everywhere waits for thee. If thou bear it cheerfully, it will bear thee, and lead thee to the desired end. Set thyself, therefore, like a good and faithful servant of Christ, to bear manfully the cross of thy Lord. THOMAS Á KEMPIS.

Take up thy cross,
Then shalt thou find the burden light,
The path made straight, the way all bright,
Thy warfare cease.
So shalt thou win thy crown,
At last thy life lay down
In perfect peace.

13. Be strong, and of a good courage: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.—*Joshua* i. 6, 5.

Take courage, for in good time, God will relieve thee of thy burden. He is mighty to help, and He will cause a blessing to spring from that which thou now deemest an inexhaustible source of sorrow. He will not leave thee nor forsake thee. Cling to Him, and He will hold thee up with His strong arm. ZSCHOKKE.

"Shall He, me alone forsaking
Leave to bear
All my care,
His presence from me taking?
His I am in faith revering;
Fatherly
Loves He me,
I'll trust His love, unfearing."

14. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork.—*Ps.* xix. 1.

There are preachers enough around us. But how many hear? How true it is, that till God speaks to the heart of man, man cannot understand the language of God which is uttered around him, over him, and beneath him. THOLUCK.

Without the smile of God upon the soul
We see not, and the world has lost its light;
For us there is no quiet in the night,
No beauty in the stars. . . . But a ray
Upon the darkness suddenly may dart,
And Christ's dear love be poured into the heart,
To clothe creation in a robe of day.
C. H. TOWNSEND.

15. Go thy way till the end be; for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.— *Dan.* xii. 13.

Whatever God may hereafter require of you, you must not give yourself the least trouble about. Everything He gives you to do, you must do as well as ever you can, and that is the best possible preparation for what He may want you to do next. GEORGE MACDONALD.

Only the present is thy part and fee,
And happy thou
If, though thou didst not beat thy future brow,
Thou could'st well see
What present things required of thee.
GEORGE HERBERT.

16. Let the peace of God rule in your hearts.— *Col.* iii. 15.

There is a peace that will enter there if you do not thwart it; there is a Spirit that will take possession of your soul, provided that you do not quench it. In this world we are recipients, not creators. In obedience and in gratefulness, and the infinite peace of God in the soul of man, is alone deep rest and repose.

F. W. ROBERTSON.

If peace be in the heart,
The wildest winter storm is full of solemn beauty,
The midnight lightning-flash but shows the path of duty,
Each living creature tells some new and joyous story,
The very trees and stones all catch a ray of glory
If peace be in the heart.
C. F. RICHARDSON.

17. To do good and to communicate, forget not.—*Heb.* xiii. 16.

All the doors that lead inward to the secret place of the Most High, are doors outward,— out of self, out of smallness, out of wrong. GEORGE MACDONALD.

Richest are they
That live for God so well
The longest day
Would scarce suffice to tell
In what wide way their benefactions fell.
Poorest are they
That live for self so true
Their longest day
Brings but such good to view
As they may need, self's service to pursue.
E. R. CHAMPLIN.

18. Wait on the Lord, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee.—*Ps.* xxxvii. 34.

When a soul is ready to do God's will, and to submit cheerfully to God's discipline, and to receive such fulness of supply as God is willing to bestow, that soul may be truly said to "wait on the Lord." It is a great grace, and it leads to a great glory. T. L. CUYLER.

I know that God gives nothing to us for a day;
That what He gives He never cares to take away,
And when He comes and seems to make our glory less,
It is that bye and bye we may the more confess
That He has made it brighter than it was before,—
A Glory shining on and on forevermore.
J. W. CHADWICK.

19. God meant it unto good.— *Gen.* l. 20.

Everything around us and within us is meant to bear a part in our education. There is a perfect Providence in all things and in our relation to all things. . . . We must escape from the limitations which gall our freedom, by outgrowing them, by rising above them. The "life more abundant" is the only remedy for what we call evil.

CHARLES G. AMES.

"Life is good, whose tidal flow
The motions of Thy will obeys;
And death is good, that makes us know
The Love Divine, that all things sways.

"And good it is to bear the cross,
And so Thy perfect peace to win;
And naught is ill, nor brings us loss,
Nor works us harm, save only sin."

20. I will redeem them from death.—*Hosea* xiii. 14.

Death is but a blossoming out from the bulbous body, which kept the precious germ all winter long, and now the shards fall off and the immortal flower opens its beauty which God transfers to His own paradise, fragrant with men's good deeds and good thoughts.

THEODORE PARKER.

Let go the breath!
There is no death
To the living soul, nor loss, nor harm.
Not of the clod
Is the life of God;
Let it mount, as it will, from form to form.

CHARLES G. AMES.

21. I will give you rest.— *Matt.* xi. 28.

The world proposes rest by the removal of a burden. The Redeemer gives rest by giving us the spirit and power to bear the burden. Christ does not promise a rest of inaction, nor that the trials of life shall be removed. The curse on this world is labor, but to him who labors earnestly and truly, it turns to blessedness.

F. W. ROBERTSON.

I rest by serving at Thy will,
Thy yoke is easy and Thy burden light;
And peace grows deep, and deeper still,
As my obedience proves Thy might.

G. M. STONE.

22. If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes?—*Zech.* viii. 6.

Our only hope of strength and peace lies in knowing that there is one whom nothing disappoints, and nothing amazes. . . . Somewhere there is an eye which looks on all this strange bewilderment, and feels no wonder, because it looks it through and through, and sees its first principles and final causes clear as daylight.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

Know well, my soul, God's hand controls
Whate'er thou fearest,
Round Him in calmest music rolls
Whate'er thou hearest.
What to thee is darkness, to Him is day,
And the end He knoweth,
And not on a blind and aimless way
The spirit goeth. WHITTIER.

23. And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.— *Gal.* vi. 9.

While in all things that we see, or do, we are to desire perfection, and strive for it, we are nevertheless not to set the meaner thing, in its narrow accomplishment, above the nobler thing, in its mighty progress . . . . not to prefer mean victory to honorable defeat; not to lower the level of our aim, that we may the more surely enjoy the complacency of success. RUSKIN.

Greatly begin! though thou have time
But for a line, be that sublime; —
Not failure, but low aim, is crime. LOWELL.

24. I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee.— *Isa.* xli. 10.

"God knows! Oh, the comfort of this thought! and to gain the power to cast on Him our care after we have done our patient best, is the secret of all true happiness and peace."

"Just to leave in His dear hand
Little things,
All we cannot understand,
All that stings.
Just to let Him take the care,
Sorely pressing,
Finding all we let Him bear,
Changed to blessing.
This is all, and yet the way
Marked by Him who loves thee best,
Secret of a happy day,
Secret of His promised rest."

25. And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily.—*Col.* iii. 23.

Set yourself earnestly to see what you were made to do, and then set yourself earnestly to do it . . . and the loftier your purpose is, the more sure you will be to make the world richer with every enrichment of yourself.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

I ask not wealth, but power to take
And use the things I have aright;
Not years, but wisdom that shall make
My life a profit and delight.

I ask not that for me, the plan
Of good and ill be set aside;
But that the common lot of man
Be nobly borne and glorified.

PHŒBE CARY.

26. The Lord is able to give thee much more than this.— 2 *Chron.* xxv. 9.

All that is good, all that is true, all that is beautiful, all that is beneficent, be it great or small, be it perfect or fragmentary, natural as well as supernatural, moral as well as material, comes from God.

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN.

"Thy kingly giving far outweighs
All that we ask or think,
Drawing us to thy heart of love
By many an upward link.
And faith may climb the ladder, Prayer,
Each step an answer given,
Each round inscribed 'Much more than this'
Up to the gates of heaven."

27. Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O Lord. *Ps.* xciv. 12.

Adversity is like the period of the former and of the latter rain,— cold, comfortless, unfriendly to man and to animal; yet from that season have their birth the flower and the fruit. SIR WALTER SCOTT.

"Learn to wait Hope's slow fruition,
Faint not, though the way seem long;
There is joy in each condition —
Hearts, through suffering, may grow strong.

Constant sunshine, howe'er welcome,
Ne'er would ripen fruit or flower;
Giant oaks owe half their greatness
To the scathing tempest's power."

28. And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.— 1 *John* iv. 21.

The profession of devotional warmth, with an icy heart toward our fellow-men, is the vainest of all professions. By loving our brother whom we have seen, we best show our love for God whom we have not seen. C. C. H.

Learn that to love is the one way to know
Or God or man.

JEAN INGELOW.

Have good-will
To all that lives, letting unkindness die
And greed and wrath; so that your lives be made
Like soft airs passing by.

EDWIN ARNOLD.

29. And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, . . . he did it with all his heart, and prospered.— 2 *Chron.* xxxi. 21.

Beware how you look abroad for the succor that you will contribute nothing to bring. Bear your own part, according to the imperfect ability you have received, in the work of your deliverance. That part and that ability may be small; but they are required, and they shall be enough. O. B. FROTHINGHAM.

"Life is struggle, combat, victory,—
Wherefore have I slumbered on
With my forces all unmarshalled,
With my weapons all undrawn?
Oh, how many a glorious record
Had the angel of me kept,
Had I done, instead of doubted,
Had I warred, instead of wept!"

30. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand.— *Ps.* xxxvii. 23, 24.

The only failure a man ought to fear, is failure in cleaving to the purpose he sees to be best.

GEORGE ELIOT.

Not all who seem to fail have failed indeed;
Not all who fail have therefore worked in vain;
For all our acts to many issues lead,
And out of earnest purpose, pure and plain,
Enforced by honest toil of hand or brain,
The Lord will fashion in His own good time
Such ends as to His wisdom fitliest chime
With His vast love's eternal harmonies.

— *Politics for the People.*

31. Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching.— *Luke* xii. 37.

Are we habitually ready to die? . . . Not by a preternatural state of feeling, but by the habitual and calm discharge of our duty, by labors of kindness, by a temper of mind kindred to that heaven which we hope to enter?

DR. DEWEY.

I may not know, my God; no hand revealeth
Thy counsels wise;
Along the path a deepening shadow stealeth,
No voice replies
To all my questioning thought, the time to tell,
And it is well.
Let me keep on, abiding and unfearing
Thy will always,
Through a long century's ripening fruition,
Or a short day's.
Thou canst not come too soon, and I can wait
If Thou come late.

SUSAN COOLIDGE.

JUNE.

1. For he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. — *Rom.* xiii. 8.

To find the ideal life in the normal, you must do two hard things, — get rid of the world in your heart, and get rid of self — of thinking of yourself, and of feeling round yourself. One thing is needful, — only one, — and that one thing is Love. STOPFORD BROOKE.

"Daily struggling, though enclosed and lonely,
Every day a rich reward will give;
Thou wilt find by hearty striving only,
And truly loving, thou canst truly live."

2. Nevertheless I am continually with thee. — *Ps.* lxxiii. 23.

There is a gracious Providence over us, never doubt that. The spirit of truth and of God is blowing around us like the wind, invisible, mysterious, like the air. We cannot tell whence it comes, or whither it goes. But it is coming and going evermore in all parts of the earth, in every human bosom. W. H. FURNESS.

Before beginning, and without an end,
As space eternal, and as surety sure,
Is fixed a Providence which moves to good,
Only its laws endure.
It maketh and unmaketh, mending all;
What it hath wrought is better than hath been;
Slow grows the splendid pattern that it plans
Its wistful hands between.

EDWIN ARNOLD

3. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.— *James* iv. 14.

Yet this very instability of human things, O blessed wisdom of God, is in the perfection of thy decrees; that by it we may be compelled to seek after solid and unchangeable good. St. GREGORY.

I thank Thee, Lord, that Thou hast kept
The best in store,
We have enough, yet not too much
To long for more;
A yearning for a deeper peace
Not known before.
I thank Thee, Lord, that here our souls,
Though amply blest,
Can never find, although they seek
A perfect rest —
Nor never shall, until they lean
On Jesus' breast. ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

4. But let every man take heed how he buildeth. — 1 *Cor.* iii. 10.

We are builders of our own characters. We have different positions, spheres, capacities, privileges, different work to do in the world, different temporal fabrics to raise; but we are all alike in this, — all are architects of fate. J. F. W. WARE.

"We are builders, and each one
Should cut and carve, as best he can.
Every life is but a stone,
Every one shall hew his own,
Make or mar, shall every man."

5. We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.— *Acts* xiv. 22.

True religion is no mere mystic, passive dream of devotion. Its best definition is a doing as well as a being. . . The eye must be upward, the footsteps onward. Every day should find us farther from earth and nearer heaven.

J. R. MACDUFF.

The stranger wandering in the Switzer's land,
Before its awful mountain tops afraid,
Who yet with patient toil has gained his stand
On the bare summit where all life is stayed,

Sees far, far down beneath his blood-dimmed eyes
Another country, golden to the shore,
Where a new passion and new hopes arise,
Where southern blooms unfold forever more.

Yet courage, soul! nor hold thy strength in vain.
In hope o'ercome the steeps God set for thee,
For past the Alpine summits of great pain
Lieth thine Italy. ROSE TERRY COOKE.

6. Bring forth fruit with patience.— *Luke* viii. 15.

Every man must patiently bide his time. He must wait — not in listless idleness, — but in constant, steady, cheerful endeavors, always willing, and fulfilling and accomplishing his task, that, when the occasion comes, he may be equal to the occasion. LONGFELLOW.

"Never hasting, never resting,
Glad in peace, and calm in strife,
Quietly thyself preparing
To perform thy part in life."

7. Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun.— *Eccles.* xi. 7.

That which sets the sun in our inner life, though illness may come, though life may be darkened with misfortune, is to have the sunlight of God's presence in our souls; the sunlight of goodness, of a pure heart, of the true and loving spirit of Christ Jesus. STOPFORD BROOKE.

There are briars besetting every path
Which call for patient care;
There is a cross in every lot,
And an earnest need for prayer;
But a lonely heart that leans on Thee,
Is happy anywhere. ANNA WARING.

8. I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will show forth all thy marvellous works.— *Ps.* ix. 1.

Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything beautiful . . . . welcome it in every fair face, every fair sky, every fair flower, and thank Him for it, who is the fountain of all loveliness, and drink it simply and earnestly with all your eyes; it is a charmed draught, a cup of blessing.
CHARLES KINGSLEY.

For the earth and all its beauty,
The sky and all its light,—
For the dim and soothing shadows
That rest the dazzled sight,—
For unfading fields and prairies
Where sense in vain has trod,—
For Thy world's exhaustless beauty
I thank Thee, O my God!
LUCY LARCOM.

9. Thou art my father.— *Ps.* lxxxix. 26.

"Seek to cherish a spirit of more childlike confidence in thy Heavenly Father's will. Thou art not left unbefriended and alone to buffet the storms of the wilderness. Where can a child be safer or better than in a father's hand?"

Not a floweret fadeth,
Not a star grows dim,
Not a cloud o'ershadoweth,
But 'tis marked by Him.
Dream not that thy gladness
God doth fail to see;
Think not in thy sadness
He forgetteth thee.

A. C. JENNINGS.

10. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.— *Gal.* vi. 2.

We are our best when we try to be it not for ourselves alone, but for our brethren; and we take God's gifts most completely, when we realize that He sends them to us for the benefit of other men, who stand beyond us, needing them. PHILLIPS BROOKS.

Thy love
Shall chant it own beatitudes,
After its own life working. A child-kiss
Set on thy sighing lips, shall make thee glad;
A poor man, served by thee, shall make thee rich;
A sick man, helped by thee, shall make thee strong;
Thou shalt be served thyself by every sense
Of service which thou renderest.

E. B. BROWNING.

11. Commune with your own heart.— *Ps.* iv. 4.

Meditative self-knowledge is the true school of reverence, of sympathy, of hope, and of immovable humility, for there we see, side by side, what we are and what we ought to be, for there too, we meet, spirit to spirit, the Almighty Holiness that lifts us to Himself.

JAMES MARTINEAU.

By all means use sometimes to be alone,
Salute thyself, see what thy soul doth wear,
Dare to look in thy chest, — for 'tis thine own, —
And tumble up and down what thou findest there.

GEORGE HERBERT.

12. Take therefore no thought for the morrow.— *Matt.* vi. 34.

Be not anxious about to-morrow. Do to-day's duty, fight to-day's temptation; and do not weaken and distract yourself by looking forward to things which you cannot see, and could not understand if you saw them. Enough for you that the God for whom you fight is just and merciful; for He rewardeth every man according to his work.

CHARLES KINGSLEY.

The morrow, when it comes, shall know
Its daily task, its daily care;
But not till then it deigns to show
Its needed act, its needed prayer.

Then to the Present be thou true;
To that let thought and act be given,
And thou shalt find a vigor new
To take the next great step to heaven.

T. C. W.

13. He knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with Him. — *Dan.* ii. 22.

In perplexities, — when we cannot tell what to do, when we cannot understand what is going on around us, — let us be calmed and steadied and made patient by the thought that what is hidden from us is not hidden from Him. F. R. HAVERGAL.

"He who cares for the lily,
And heeds the sparrow's fall
Shall tenderly lead His loving child;
For He made and loveth all.

And so, when wearied and baffled,
And I know not which way to go,
I know that He can guide me,
And 'tis all that I need to know."

14. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. — *John* xiv. 27.

Let no one dream, who follows Christ, that he will be saved from outward trouble, or have peace from the sorrows of mankind. It was spiritual peace that was His peace; it was that which He left to us.

STOPFORD BROOKE.

"Not as the world giveth," grudgingly,
. . . . . .
But freely, everlasting peace —
A silent river, flowing through the plains of earthly sorrow,
Ever growing broader, deeper, purer,
Till the boundless peace of Heaven
Rolls around it like to ocean,
"Give I unto you." H. M. GULICK.

15. The Lord shall give that which is good. — *Ps.* lxxxv. 12.

God has placed no being in a barren soil; no one where he may not find the elements of immortal life; none, where, through perfect fidelity to its condition, its roots may not reach out to embrace the earth, and spread out branches and leaves to heal and overshadow it.

N. A. STAPLES.

Forgive us, Lord, our little faith;
And help us all, from morn till e'en,
Still to believe that lot the best
Which is, — not that which might have been.

G. Z. GRAY.

16. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made.— *Rom.* i. 20.

Every rose is an autograph from the hand of the Almighty God. On this world about us He has inscribed His thought, in those marvellous hieroglyphs which sense and science have been these many thousand years seeking to understand. The universe itself is a great Autograph of the Almighty. THEODORE PARKER.

The word were but a blank, a hollow sound,
If he that spake it were not speaking still;
If all the light and all the shade around
Were aught but issues of Almighty Will.

So then believe that every bird that sings,
And every flower that stars the elastic sod,
And every thought the happy summer brings
To the pure spirit is a word of God.

COLERIDGE.

17. Fear thou not, for I am with thee. — *Isa.* xli. 10.

Think what it is to be full of love to every creature; to be frightened at nothing, to be sure that all things will turn to good, not to mind pain, because it is our Father's will; to know that nothing could part us from God who loves us, and who fills our souls with peace and joy, because we are sure that whatever He wills is holy, just and good. GEORGE ELIOT.

More than our feeble hearts can ever pine
For holiness,
The Father, in His tenderness divine,
Yearneth to bless.
He never sends a joy not meant in love,
Still less a pain;
Our gratitude the sunlight falls to prove,
Our faith, the rain.

FRANCES POWER COBBE.

18. I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience. — *Rev.* ii. 2.

If for some of us action cannot mean doing, then remember bearing, too, is action, often its hardest part.

W. C. GANNETT.

"I am not eager, bold, or strong;
All that is past;
I am ready *not* to do,
At last — at last."

"Then seek to please Him, whatsoe'er
He bids thee!
Whether to do, — to suffer, — to lie still.
'Twill matter little by what path He leads us,
If in it all we sought to do His will."

19. And Jacob said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. . . . And he blessed him there.— *Gen.* xxxii. 26–29.

The besetting sin may become the guardian angel. Let us thank God that we can say it! Yes, this sin that has sent me weary-hearted to bed and desperate in heart to morning work, can be conquered. I do not say, annihilated, but better than that, conquered, captured and transfigured into a friend; so that I, at last, shall say, "My temptation has become my strength! for to the very fight with it I owe my force. W. C. GANNETT.

We rise by the things that are under feet;
By what we have mastered of good or gain;
By the pride deposed and the passion slain,
And the vanquished ills that we hourly meet.
J. G. HOLLAND.

20. As ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation. — 2 *Cor.* i. 7.

When God would educate a man, He compels him to learn bitter lessons. He sends him to school to the necessities, rather than to the graces, that by knowing all suffering, he may know also the eternal consolation.
CELIA BURLEIGH.

Think not alone of what the Lord hath taken,
Thou whom His love has of some joy bereft,
But in the moments thou art most forsaken,
Think what His love hath left.

Count up thy gains won from affliction's losses,
The riches gathered in no cheaper mart;
The faith and hope, new crowns to costly crosses,
Wrought out by sorrow's mart. E. E. LAY.

21. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect; but I follow after. — *Phil.* iii. 12.

Whoever is satisfied with what he does, has reached his culminating point — he will progress no more. Man's destiny is to be not dissatisfied, but forever unsatisfied.

F. W. ROBERTSON.

"Better to strive and climb,
And never reach the goal,
Than to drift along with time —
An aimless, worthless soul.
Ay, better to climb and fall,
Or sow, though the yield be small,
Than to throw away day after day,
And never strive at all."

22. O death, where is thy sting? — 1 *Cor.* xv. 55.

"Death is a flight away from earth, not a lying down a few feet beneath its sods. . . . . All things around us and in us are felt to be beginnings, and the curtains of the unseen world, as if lifted by the wind, wave ever and anon into our face, and cling like a mask we think we see through."

Why shouldst thou fear the beautiful angel Death,
Who waits thee at the portals of the skies,
Ready to kiss away thy struggling breath,
Ready with gentle hand to close thy eyes?

Oh, what were life, if life were all? Thine eyes
Are blinded by their tears, or thou would'st see
Thy treasures wait thee in the far-off skies,
And Death, thy friend, will give them all to thee.

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

23. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men. — *Gal.* vi. 10.

If we work upon marble, it will perish; but if we work upon immortal minds, if we imbue them with principles, with the fear of God, and love of our fellowmen, — we engrave on these tablets something which will brighten for all eternity. DANIEL WEBSTER.

Rouse to some work of high and holy love,
And thou an angel's happiness shalt know,
Shalt bless the earth, when in the world above
The good begun by thee shall onward flow
In many a branching stream, and wider grow;
The seed that in these few and fleeting hours
Thy hands unsparing and unwearied sow,
Shall deck thy grave with amaranthine flowers,
And yield thee fruits divine in Heaven's immortal bowers.
CARLOS WILCOX.

24. Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might. — *Ecc.* ix. 10.

The surest method of arriving at a knowledge of God's eternal purposes about us is to be found in the right use of the present moment. Each hour comes with some little fagot of God's will fastened upon its back.
F. W. FABER.

"Do not then stand idly waiting
For some greater work to do.
. . . . . .
Go and toil in any vineyard,
Do not fear to do or dare,
If you want a field of labor,
You will find it anywhere."

25. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. — *Phil.* iii. 14.

Do not dare to live without some clear intention toward which your living shall be bent. Mean to be something with all your might. . . . . Do not dare to think that a child of God can worthily work out his career, or worthily serve God's other children, unless he does both in the love and fear of God their Father.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

A sacred burden is this life ye bear,
Look on it, lift it, bear it solemnly,
Stand up and walk beneath it steadfastly.
Fail not for sorrow; falter not for sin,
But onward, upward, till the goal ye win.

F. A. KEMBLE.

26. So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.— *Rom.* xii. 5.

You never miss an opportunity of giving innocent pleasure, or helping another soul on the path to God, but you are taking away from yourselves forever what might have been a happy memory, and leaving in its place pain or remorse. FRANCES POWER COBBE.

Like warp and woof all destinies
Are woven fast,
Linked in sympathy like the keys
Of an organ vast.

Back to thyself is measured well
All thou hast given;
Thy neighbor's wrong is thy present hell,
His bliss, thy heaven. WHITTIER.

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27. Grow in grace.— 2 *Peter* iii. 18.

These lives of ours are capable of being filled with God, possessed by His love, eager after His communion; and if they are, ... they shall be quietly, steadily, nobly lifted into something of the peace and dignity of the God whom they aspire to.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

We the weak ones, we the sinners,
Would not in our poorness stay;
We the low ones would be winners
Of what holy height we may:
Ever nearer
To thy pure and perfect day. T. H. GILL.

28. It is the Lord . let him do what seemeth him good. — 1 *Sam.* iii. 18.

Every thread in the tangled skein of events is numbered and hath its ministry. Out from that tangled skein, out from each trivial event and circumstance, out from the thornbush by the wayside God's wisdom is speaking, as truly as from the height of heaven. DR. DEWEY.

"For us, ... whatever's undergone,
Thou knowest, willest what is done.
Grief may be joy misunderstood;
Only the Good discerns the good.
I trust Thee while my days go on.

"Whatever's lost, it first was won!
We will not struggle nor impugn.
Perhaps the cup was broken here
That Heaven's new wine might show more clear
I praise Thee while my days go on."

29. That they be in behaviour as becometh holiness.—*Titus* ii. 3.

"The serene, silent beauty of a holy life is the most powerful influence in the world, next to the might of the Spirit of God."

Go, make thy garden fair as thou canst,
Thou workest never alone,
Perchance he whose plot is next to thine
Will see it, and mend his own.

ROBERT COLLYER.

Thou knowest not what argument
Thy life to thy neighbor's creed hath lent;
All are needed by each one;
Nothing is fair or good alone. EMERSON.

30. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.—*John* xvii. 15.

What I must do is all that concerns me, not what the people think. . . . . It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude. EMERSON.

Man should dare all things that he knows are right,
And fear to do no act save what is wrong;
But guided safely by his inward light,
And with a permanent belief and strong,
In Him who is our Father and our Friend,
He should walk steadfastly unto the end.

PHŒBE CARY.

JULY.

1. Friend, go up higher.— *Luke* xiv. 10.

Patience and strength are what we need; an earnest use of what we have now; and all the time an earnest discontent until we come to what we ought to be.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

"Ah! far too faint, too poor
Are all our views and aims — we only stand
Within the borders of the promised land,
Its precious things we seek not to secure;
And thus our hands hang down, and oft unstrung,
Our harps are left the willow-trees among.
Lord, lead us upward, forward, till we know
How much of heavenly bliss may be enjoyed below."

2. The Lord of hosts is with us.— *Ps.* xlvi. 11.

It is impossible for that man to despair who remembers that his Helper is omnipotent. JEREMY TAYLOR.

"I look to Thee in every need,
And never look in vain;
I feel Thy strong and tender love,
And all is well again;
The thought of Thee is mightier far
Than sin and pain and sorrow are.

"Thy calmness bends serene above,
My restlessness to still;
Around me flows Thy quickening life,
To nerve my faltering will;
Thy presence fills my solitude,
Thy providence turns all to good."

3. Fear not; for I am with thee.— *Gen.* xxvi. 24.

"If in the day of sorrow we own God's presence in the cloud, we shall find him also in the pillar of fire, brightening and cheering our way as the night comes on."

Misfortune is never mournful to the soul that accepts it, for such do always see that every cloud is an angel's face. W. C. WHITCOMB.

All God's angels come to us disguised, —
Sorrow and sickness, poverty and death,
One after other lift their frowning masks,
And we behold the seraph's face beneath,
All radiant with the glory and the calm
Of having looked upon the face of God.

LOWELL.

4. That I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.— *Phil.* ii. 16.

It is not only that God does not let one sparrow fall to the ground without Him, but not one good thought, feeling, purpose, deed. Our smiles, our tears, our prayers, our hopes, our efforts are all numbered, as well as the hairs of our heads. The grass for to-morrow's oven is not alone clothed, but every righteous intent.

J. F. W. WARE.

"Say not, 'Twas all in vain,'
The patience and the pity and the word
In warning breathed 'mid passion's hurricane,
Unheeded here — but God that whisper heard,
The tender grief o'er stranger's sorrow shed,
The sacrifice that won no human praise."

5. To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life.— *Rev.* ii. 7.

Who hath a greater combat than he that laboreth to overcome himself? This ought to be our endeavor, — to conquer ourselves and daily wax stronger, and to make a further growth in holiness. Á KEMPIS.

A man can no more be a Christian without facing evil and conquering it, than he can be a soldier without going to battle and encountering the enemy in the field.

E. H. CHAPIN.

My soul, be on thy guard!
Ten thousand foes arise;
The hosts of sin are pressing hard
To draw thee from the skies.
Oh, watch and fight and pray!
The battle ne'er give o'er;
Renew it boldly day by day,
And help divine implore.

GEORGE HEATH.

6. Day unto day uttereth speech.—*Ps.* xix. 2.

Every yesterday is talking to, instructing to-day. . . . . We live in, and because of, yesterdays. Their life enters into ours. Not only yesterday speaks to to-day, but what yesterday says decides what to-day is. He lives well and wisely who has the speech of each day as it goes, who hears and heeds the voice it utters. J. F. W. WARE.

Each man's life
The outcome of his former living is;
The by-gone wrongs bring forth sorrows and woes.
The by-gone right breeds bliss.

EDWIN ARNOLD.

7. Thy right hand shall hold me.— *Ps.* cxxxix. 9–10.

Never fear that your wants are forgotten, because the boundless Creation sends up a cry to its common Father, and He has an infinite Family for whom to provide. Were you His only creature alive, He could not think of you more constantly and tenderly than He does now.

W. E. CHANNING.

Yes, for me, for me He careth
With a Father's tender care;
Yes, with me, with me He shareth
Every burden, every fear.

Yes, o'er me, o'er me He watcheth,
Ceaseless watcheth, night and day;
Yes, even me, even me He snatcheth
From the perils of the way.

HORATIUS BONAR.

8. Teach me to do thy will.— *Ps.* cxliii. 10.

It makes the mind very free when we give up wishing, and only think of bearing what is laid upon us, and doing what is given us to do. GEORGE ELIOT.

"The straightest way, perhaps which may be sought,
Lies through the great highway men call — 'I ought.'"

The battle of our life is won
And Heaven begun,
When we can say "Thy will be done,"
But, Lord, until
These restless hearts in Thy deep love are still,
We pray Thee, teach us how to do Thy will.

LUCY LARCOM

9. Then I said, I have laboured in vain, . . . yet surely my judgment is with the Lord.— *Isa.* xlix. 4.

"It is a fine notion of life to liken it to the loom. God puts on the warp in those circumstances in which we find ourselves, and which we cannot change. The weft is wrought by the shuttle of every day life. It is made of very homely threads sometimes, common duties, unpromising and unwelcome tasks. But whoever tries to do each day's work in the spirit of patient loyalty to God, is weaving the texture whose other side is fairer than the one he sees."

"There is no end to the sky,
And the stars are everywhere,
And time is eternity,
And the here is over there;
And the common deeds of the common day
Are ringing bells in the far-away."

10. For a just man falleth seven times and riseth up again.— *Prov.* xxiv. 16.

Neither let mistakes nor wrong directions, of which every man, in his studies and elsewhere, falls into many, discourage you. There is precious instruction to be got by finding we were wrong. Let a man try faithfully, manfully to be right; he will grow daily more and more right.

CARLYLE.

I hold it truth, with him who sings
To one clear harp in divers tones,
That men may rise on stepping-stones
Of their dead selves to higher things.

TENNYSON.

11. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left. — *Prov.* iv. 25–27.

Forward, thou faint and trembling heart — still forward upon the path of duty — the path prescribed by God. Thou canst not see the issue, but His eye has seen it long ago. His world has been so arranged that upon the path of duty, and upon that path alone — can the blissful goal be reached. THOLUCK.

"Yet must I labor still
All the day through, —
Striving with earnest will
Patient my place to fill,
My work to do.

"Long though my task may be,
Cometh the end.
God 'tis that helpeth me,
His is the work, and He
New strength will lend."

12. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.— *Matt.* v. 16.

I wish we would consider ourselves to be set in this world as a crystal, which, placed in the middle of the universe, would give free passage to all that light which it receives from above. DEREUTY.

Let each act
Assoil a fault, or help a merit grow:
Like threads of silver seen through crystal beads
Let love through good deeds show.

EDWIN ARNOLD.

13. Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation. — 2 *Cor.* vii. 9, 10.

There is no more enviable condition than that of him who has made the pressure of adverse things the means of a deep faith. There is no good so great as that which the soul has itself wrought and secured, through its overcoming faith. J. F. W. WARE.

"Yet my soul! look not behind thee,
Thou hast work to do at last:
Let the brave toil of the present
Overarch thy crumbling past;
Build thy great acts high and higher,
Build them on the conquered sod
Where thy weakness first fell bleeding,
Where thy first prayer was to God."

14. Not my will, but thine, be done. — *Luke* xxii. 42.

Devotion, a constant sense of God's presence, a habit of seeing his will and wisdom in everything around us, — this is the top and crown of human culture, and it will cost us care and patience and prayer to rise to it.

DR. DEWEY.

The dear God hears and pities all;
He knoweth all our wants;
And what we blindly ask of him,
His love withholds or grants.

And so I sometimes think our prayers
Might well be merged in one;
And nest and perch, and hearth and church
Repeat, "Thy will be done."

WHITTIER.

15. Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.— *Col.* i. 11.

If happiness be the end of life, life in this world is a great and manifest failure. But if it be something more,— if it be to train the soul in reverence and faith and obedience to God, — then with much that is dark, we have some light on our way through the mysteries that surround us. JOHN KER.

"Yet if each wish denied, each woe and pain,
Break but some link of that oppressive chain
Which binds us still to earth, and leaves a stain
Thou only canst remove, —
Then am I blest, — oh bliss from man concealed;
If here to God, the weak one's tower and shield,
My heart through sorrow be set free to yield
A service of deep love."

16. God is love. — 1 *John* iv. 8.

We never know through what divine mysteries of compensation the great Father of the universe may be carrying out His sublime plan; and those three words, "God is love," ought to contain to every doubting soul the solution of all things. D. M. MULOCK.

I say to thee, do thou repeat
To the first man thou mayest meet
In lane, highway, or open street,
That he and we and all men move
Under a canopy of love
As broad as the blue sky above.
R. C. TRENCH.

17. They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth forever. — *Ps.* CXXV. 1.

To be dependent on others for sympathy and comfort makes you weak; to be self-dependent makes you weaker still, for that fails you in the day of your greatest need; to become independent is a dream of your pride, for no such thing is possible; to become dependent on God makes you strong; yea, clothes you out of His own Almightiness, and draws you up into His safety and refuge.

E. H. SEARS.

From human eyes 'tis better to conceal
Much that I suffer, much I hourly feel;
But, oh! this thought doth tranquillize and heal,
All, all is known to Thee.

Each secret conflict with indwelling sin,
Each sickening fear I ne'er the prize shall win,
Each pang from irritating turmoil, din,
All, all are known to Thee. A. L. NEWTON.

18. Thou hast been faithful over a few things . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.— *Matt.* XXV. 21.

If we perform what we are able to perform, how little soever it may be, it is enough; it will be acceptable in the sight of Him who knows how to estimate exactly all our actions. L. MURRAY.

"We need no wings
To soar aloft to realms of higher things,
But only feet which walk the paths of peace,
Guided by Him whose voice
Greets every ear, makes every heart rejoice."

19. And I give unto them eternal life. — *John* x. 28.

Believing in the All-good, I feel that the Perfection of my own spirit is not a dream; that it may become a reality; . . . that if faithful to the laws of the Religious Life I shall conquer not only death, but what is much more terrible than death, the power of mortal evil.

W. E. CHANNING.

Like unto ships far off at sea,
Outward, or homeward bound, are we.
Ah! if our souls but poise and swing
Like the compass in its brazen ring,
Ever level, and ever true
To the toil and the task we have to do,
We shall sail securely and safely reach
The Fortunate Isles, on whose shining beach
The sights we see and the sounds we hear
Will be those of joy and not of fear.

LONGFELLOW.

20. I will be glad and rejoice in thee.— *Ps.* ix. 2.

Throughout the entire word of God, we are taught the sacred duty of being happy. Be happy, cheerful, rejoiceful as we can, we cannot go beyond the spirit of the Gospel. . . . Christ, though "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" was happy and rejoiced in spirit.

DEAN STANLEY.

"The heart that trusts, forever sings,
And feels as light as it had wings;
A well of peace within it springs;
Come good or ill,
Whate'er to-day, to-morrow brings,
It is His will."

21. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.—*Heb.* xii. 11.

We often live under a cloud, and it is well for us that we should do so. Uninterrupted sunshine would parch our hearts: we want shade and rain to cool and refresh them. HARE.

"Is it raining, little flower?
Be glad of rain.
Too much sun would wither thee.
'Twill shine again.
The sky is very black, 'tis true,
But just behind it shines the blue.

"Art thou weary, tender heart?
Be glad of pain;
In sorrow sweetest things will grow
As flowers in rain.
God watches and thou wilt have sun
When clouds their perfect work have done."

22. Forbearing one another in love.—*Eph.* iv. 2.

The presence of the Lord with man is first given when he loves his neighbor. SWEDENBORG.

"He who would bear my light and easy yoke
Must wear love's bridle also on his lips.
Love is a spring
Which in the dark depths of the heart must rise
Fed from the skies,
Extend its influence to everything,
To just deeds, gentle lips, and truthful eyes."

23. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. — 2 *Tim.* ii. 3.

"Can we bear," we ask, "going on with the struggle forever?" Yes, we can, but only when we are possessed by the noblest and the strongest ideas, when we enter into the struggle as men who are resolved not to retreat a single step. STOPFORD BROOKE.

Therefore in patience I possess my soul:
Yea, therefore as a flint I set my face
To pluck down, to build up again the whole;
But in a distant place.

These thorns are sharp, but I can tread on them:
This cup is loathsome, yet He makes it sweet.
My face is steadfast toward Jerusalem;
My heart remembers it.

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI.

24. Thou hast ordered all things. — *Sol.* xi. 20. *Apocrypha.*

There is no room for chance. Strange may be the way in which the lot is cast into our lap, but whether it be cast by visible or invisible hands, whether suddenly, or so slowly that we can see it come, whether plentifully or sparingly, — it is always cast exactly as the Lord wills.

THOLUCK.

As God leads me, I am still
Within His hand,
Though His purpose my self-will
Doth oft withstand,
Yet I wish that none
But His will be done,
Till the end be won
That He hath planned. L. GEDICKE.

25. The Lord directeth his steps.— *Prov.* xvi. 9.

"Oh restless hearts that beat against your prison bars of circumstance, yearning for a wider sphere of usefulness, leave God to order all your ways. Patience and trust, in the dullness of the routine of life, will be the best preparation for a courageous bearing of the tug and strain of the larger opportunity which God may some time send you."

"Still are the ships that in haven ride,
Waiting for winds or turn of tide.
Nothing they fret, though they do not get
Out on the glorious ocean wide.
Oh wild hearts that yearn to be free
Look and learn from the ships on the sea!

Bravely the ships in the tempest tossed
Buffet the waves till the sea be crossed.
Not in despair of the haven fair
Though winds blow backward, and leagues be lost;
Oh weary hearts that yearn for sleep,
Look and learn from the ships on the deep."

26. Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.— *Isa.* xxxv. 3.

From every sorrow you receive in a spirit of Christian resignation, from every pain you bear patiently, from every great trial you bravely meet, there silently passes to those about you, strength and comfort and encouragement.

SAMUEL A. SMITH.

Others shall
Take patience, labor, to their heart and hand
From thy hand and thy heart and thy brave cheer,
And God's grace fructify through thee to all.

E. B. BROWNING.

27. My times are in Thy hand.— *Ps.* xxxi. 15.

Many a life has been injured by the constant expectation of death. It is life we have to do with, not death. The best preparation for the night is to work while the day lasts diligently. The best preparation for death is life.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

If a wondrous hand from the blue yonder
Held out a scroll
On which my name was writ, and I with wonder
Beheld unroll
To a long century's end its mystic clue,
What should I do?

What *could* I do, O blessed Guide and Master,
Other than this;
Still to go on as now, not slower, faster,
Nor fear to miss
The road, although so very long it be
While led by Thee.

SUSAN COOLIDGE.

28. Neither shall they say: Lo here! or Lo there! for behold, the kingdom of God is within you.— *Luke* xvii. 21.

Heaven is, in fact and in essence, a state of man's own mind, a state of love and goodness. Thus heaven is not so much a gift and reward after death, for good actions done in this life, as the necessary result of ceasing from evil, and cherishing good affections. SWEDENBORG.

Not farther off, but farther in,
Such is the nature of thy quest;
They heaven find, who heaven win,
The one true Christ is in thy breast.

J. W. CHADWICK.

29. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! —*Ps.* cvii. 15.

Once let men see not things alone, but the divine light and life that stream through them; and then shall every day open new revelations, then shall the bird upon the wing and the flower in the field speak to them of God.

DR. DEWEY.

Flowers preach to us if we will hear.
The rose saith in the dewy morn,
I am most fair,
Yet all my loveliness is born
Upon a thorn . .
The merest grass
Along the roadside where we pass,
Lichen and moss and sturdy weed,
Tell of His love who sends the dew,
The rain and the sunshine too,
To nourish one small seed. D. G. ROSSETTI.

30. The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.—*Prov.* iv. 18.

Happiness is reflective like the light of Heaven: and every countenance bright with smiles, and glowing with innocent enjoyment, is a mirror transmitting to others the rays of a supreme and ever shining benevolence.

IRVING.

Make me as one that casteth not by day
A dreary shadow, but reflecting aye
One little beam, loved, warm and golden, caught
From the bright sun that lights our daily way.

J. P. BOYNTON.

31. Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. — *Matt.* viii. 19.

Follow after Him though it may be at an immeasurable distance. Follow Him in His long endurance and His great humility. Follow Him with a bold and cheerful spirit in the happy and glorious victory which He won over sin and over death; and in the end thou shalt find in Him the true communion and fellowship which he only can give. DEAN STANLEY.

"If I find Him, if I follow,
What his guerdon here?
Many a sorrow, many a labor,
Many a tear.
If I still hold closely to Him,
What hath He at last?
Sorrow vanquished, labor ended,
Jordan past."

AUGUST.

1. Thou shalt show them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.— *Ex.* xviii. 20.

"God never put one man or one woman into the world, without giving each something to do in it, or for it: — some visible, tangible work, to be left behind them when they die."

Each hath its place in the Eternal plan;
Heaven whispers wisdom to the wayside flower,
Bidding it use its own peculiar dower,
And bloom its best within its little span.
We must each do not what we will, but can,
Nor have we duty to exceed our power.
To all things are marked out their place and hour.

THOS. BURBIDGE.

2. He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty.— *Prov.* xvi. 32.

"If possible, seal your lips in silence when the storm is rising; shut up your anger in your own bosom and like fire that wants air and vent, it will soon expire. Angry words often prove a fan to the spark. The subjection of our temper to the control of religion is a thing that must be done."

Govern the lips
As they were palace doors, the King within;
Tranquil and fair and courteous be all words
Which from that presence win.

EDWIN ARNOLD.

3. They offered the daily burnt offerings by number, as the duty of every day required.—*Ezra* iii. 4.

Pleasant is it to entertain the picture of ourselves in some future scene, planning wisely, feeling nobly, and executing with the holy triumph of the will; but it is a different thing,— not in the green avenues of the future, but in the hot dust of the present moment,— to do the duty that waits and wants us. JAMES MARTINEAU.

"I am glad to think
I am not bound to make the wrong go right;
But only to discover and to do
With cheerful heart
The work that God appoints."

4. For as he thinketh in his heart so is he.— *Prov.* xxiii. 7.

As we build the holy temple for religion in our souls the outward evidence may add to its beauty and its grace, but on the inner witness does it stand or fall.

S. A. SMITH.

In vain shall waves of incense drift
The vaulted nave around,
In vain the minster turret lift
Its brazen weights of sound.

The heart must ring thy Christmas bells,
Thy inward altars raise,
Its faith and hope thy canticles,
And its obedience praise. WHITTIER.

The cross on Golgotha will never save thy soul:
The cross in thine own heart alone can make thee whole

SILESIUS.

5. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour.— 2 *Tim.* ii. 21.

"If you desire to be great and good and efficient in God's cause, or in any good work, develop and train and prune yourself. The glory of manhood is its royal kingship over the realm of self."

True glory consists in so living as to make the world happier and better for our living. PLINY.

Soul, then know thy full salvation,
Rise o'er sin, and fear, and care;
Joy to find in every station
Something still to do or bear.

MONTGOMERY.

6. Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the vail.—*Heb.* vi. 19.

"Be patient with your pains and cares. We know it is easy to say, and hard to do. . . . But there is no pain or care that can last long. . . . A little while, and you shall leave behind you your troubles, and forget in your first sweet hour of rest that such things were on earth. None of them shall enter the city of God."

O rainy days! O days of sun!
What are ye all when the year is done?
Who shall remember sun or rain?
O years of loss! O joyful years!
What are ye when all heaven appears?
Who shall look back for joy or pain?

W. P. FOSTER.

7. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.— *Phil.* iii. 14.

A true Christian faith starts with the truth of a present redemption and leads the man up to personal duties. It takes this poor indistinguishable atom and says to him: God knows you. To Him you are not only one of the race; He knows you separately. He made you separately. Have you never heard of such a thing as responsibility? Get up; repent. Get the pattern of your life from God, and then go about your work and be yourself.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

Life's waning hours, like the Sybil's page,
As they lessen, in value rise:
Oh! rouse thee and live! nor deem man's age
Stands in the length of his pilgrimage,
But in days that are truly wise.

8. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.—*Matt.* vii. 20.

This one test is the true test; I bear fruit, or I do not bear fruit; it is good, or it is not good. Wherever you find a man bearing good fruit, there, whether he may know it or not, you find a man united to Jesus Christ, a true branch of the true vine. ROBERT COLLYER.

Also I think that good must come of good
And ill of evil — surely unto all —
In every place and time — seeing sweet fruit
Groweth from wholesome roots, and bitter things
From poison stocks. EDWIN ARNOLD

9. Fear not. I will help thee.— *Isa.* xli. 15.

The burden of suffering seems a tombstone hung about our necks, while in reality, it is only the weight which is necessary to keep down the diver while he is hunting for pearls. RICHTER.

"I cannot say
Beneath the pressure of life's cares to-day,
I joy in these.
But I can say
That I had rather walk this rugged way,
If Him it please.

"I cannot feel
That all is well when darkening clouds conceal
The shining sun,
But then I know
God lives and loves and say since this is so,
Thy will be done."

10. Ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.—*Deut.* v. 32.

Set out in the very morning of your lives with a frank and manly determination to look simply for what is right and true in all things. . . . . This is the only way to know God's will and do it. You may not find it at once, but you have set your face in the true direction to find it.
J. J. TAYLOR.

I will look straight out—
See things—not try to evade them.
Fact shall be fact for me, and the truth the truth forever.
A. H. CLOUGH.

11. Serve him with a perfect heart, and with a willing mind.—1 *Chron.* xxviii. 9.

"How often do we sigh for opportunities of doing good whilst we neglect the openings of Providence, in little things, which would frequently lead to the accomplishment of most important usefulness! He who waits to do a great deal of good at once, will never do any! Good is done by degrees."

Waste not so much time in weighing
When and where thou shalt begin;
Too much thinking is delaying,
Rivets but the chains of sin.
He will help thee and provide thee
With a courage not thine own,
Bear thee in his arms, and guide thee,
Till thou learnst to walk alone.

SPITTA.

12. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. —*Matt* v. 30.

The very little things, the microscopical helpings, often seem most marvelous of all, when we consider that it was Jehovah Himself who stooped to the tiny need of the moment. F. R. HAVERGAL.

"Therefore, our Heavenly Father,
We will not fear to pray
For the little needs and longings
That fill our every day.
. . . . . .
For His great love hath compassed
Our nature, and our need
We know not; but He knoweth,
And He will bless indeed."

13. Ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.— *Cor.* ii. 10.

We rejoice in life because it seems to be carrying us somewhere; because its darkness seems to be rolling on towards light, and even its pain to be moving onward to a hidden joy. We bear with incompleteness, because of the completion which is prophesied and hoped for.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

Nothing resting in its own completeness
Can have worth or beauty; but alone
Because it tends and leads to further sweetness,
Fuller, higher, deeper than its own.
Dare not blame God's gifts for incompleteness;
In that want their beauty lies; they roll
Towards some infinite depth of love and sweetness
Bearing onward man's reluctant soul.

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

14. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.— *Rev.* xxi. 16.

The life which to its length and breadth, adds height, which to its personal ambition and sympathy with man, adds the love and obedience of God, completes itself into the cube of the eternal city, and is the life complete.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

"Give us whereby to glorify
This daily work and care,
Building our temples to the Lord
After the heavenly house on high,
Where the city lies four-square."

15. We beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more; and that ye study to be quiet.— 1 *Thess.* iv. 10. 11.

The maelstrom attracts more notice than the quiet fountain; a comet draws more attention than the steady star; but it is better to be the fountain than the maelstrom, and star than comet, following out the sphere and orbit of quiet usefulness in which God places us.

JOHN HALL.

Ceaseless aspiring,
Ceaseless content,
Darkness or sunshine
Thy element; —

Glorious fountain!
Let my heart be
Fresh, changeful, constant,
Upward, like thee! LOWELL.

16. Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud.— *Ex.* xix. 9.

"Sorrows are often like clouds, which, though black when they are passing over us, when they are past, become as if they were the garments of God, thrown off in purple and gold along the sky."

Never a cloud o'erhung the day
And flung its shadows down,
But on its heaven-side gleamed some ray,
Forming a sunshine crown.

It is dark only on the downward side:
Though rage the tempest loud,
And scatter its terrors far and wide,
There's light *upon* the cloud.

M. J. SAVAGE.

17. Quicken me in thy righteousness.— *Ps.* cxix. 40.

To hear always, to think always, to learn always, it is thus that we live truly. He who aspires to nothing, who learns nothing, is not worthy of living.

ARTHUR HELPS.

"Seize then the minutes as they pass; the woof of life is thought;
Warm up the colors, let them glow by fire or fancy fraught.
Live to some purpose, make thy life a gift of use to thee,—
A joy, a good, a golden hope, a heavenly argosy."

18. So he bringeth them unto their desired haven.— *Ps.* cvii. 30.

This is Christian progress. . . . Many a fluctuation, many a backward motion: — but if the Eternal work be real — every failure has been a real gain. . . . Both when we advance and when we fail, we gain. We are nearer to God than we were. F. W. ROBERTSON.

"So!"— by small, slow footsteps,
By the daily cross,
By the heart's unspoken yearning,
By its grief and loss:
So, He brings them home to rest,
With the victors, crowned and blessed.

"So!"— oh weary pilgrim,
'Tis the Master's way,
And it leadeth surely, surely,
Unto endless day!
Doubt not, fear not — gladly go;
He will bring thee heavenward *so!*

J. M. HARRISON.

19. Brethren, the time is short.— 1 *Cor.* vii. 29.

This fact is no dreary shadow hanging above our heads, and shutting out the sunshine. It is an everlasting inspiration. It makes a man put his heart into the heart of the career which he knows to be his. It makes the emotions and experiences of life great and not petty to him.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

The time is short; the more the reason then
For filling it as full as it can hold
With thrills of beauty, yearnings for the truths,
And joys of love and labor manifold.
Then should it chance as we would fain believe
Life's glory waits us in some other sphere,
The first great joy shall be we did not miss
God's meaning in the glory that is here.

J. W. CHADWICK.

20. Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.— *Rom.* xii. 11.

"Make the best of yourself. Watch, and plant and sow. Falter not, faint not! Perhaps you cannot bear such lordly fruit, nor yet such rare, rich flowers as others; but what of that? Bear the best you can. 'Tis all God asks."

"Teach me to live! No idler let me be,
But in thy service hand and heart employ;
Prepare to do thy bidding cheerfully:
Be this my highest and my holiest joy."

But blessings are not free: they do not fall
In listless hands; by toil the soul must prove
Its steadfast purpose master over all.

BAYARD TAYLOR.

21. When I am weak, then am I strong.— 2 *Cor.* xii. 10.

Is not this the law of life, that the fineness and strength essential to our best being, and to make us do our best work, come by the hammer and the fire? By the thorn in the flesh, the trouble and pain in our life which may act in us as the fire acts in the iron, welding the fibre afresh and creating the whole anew into our good works.

ROBERT COLLYER.

"'Tis alone of His appointing
That our feet on thorns have trod;
Suffering, pain, renunciation,
Only bring us nearer God."

22. Stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God. Dost thou know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him which is perfect in knowledge?— *Job* xxxvii. 14, 16.

We shall find that the love of Nature, wherever it has existed, has been a faithful and sacred element of human feeling; that is to say, supposing all circumstances otherwise the same with respect to two individuals, the one who loves Nature most will be always found to have more faith in God than the other. RUSKIN.

Cease, cease to *think*, and be content to *be*;
Swing safe at anchor in fair Nature's bay;
Reason no more, but o'er thy quiet soul
Let God's sweet teachings ripple their soft way.

H. B. STOWE.

23. Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.— *Rom.* xiii. 10.

A more glorious victory cannot be gained over another man than this,— that, when the injury began on his part, the kindness should begin on ours. TILLOTSON.

"Be noble! and the nobleness that lies
In other men, sleeping, but never dead,
Will rise in majesty to meet thine own."

24. Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of any man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.— 1 *Cor.* ii. 9.

"It is the heaven within us, and not the one above us, that the apostle would here unfold. To be with God, in whatever stage of being, under whatever conditions of existence, is to be in heaven."

And wherefore should I seek above
The City in the sky?
Since firm in faith and deep in love
Its broad foundations lie?

Since in a life of peace and prayer,
Nor known on earth, nor praised,
By humblest toil, by ceaseless care,
Its holy towers are raised?

Where pain the soul hath purified,
And penitence hath shriven,
And truth is crowned and glorified,
There — only there — is heaven!

ELIZA SCUDDER.

25. In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust.— *Ps.* xxxi. 1.

Rejoice, O my soul, in that minute and intimate knowledge of thyself, thy needs, thy dangers, that constrains thy Lord not to deal with thee as with any other; now to give thee more, and then to give thee far less. Never question the wisdom of His will; only watch lest in anything small or great thou shouldst frustrate the grace of God. S. F. SMILEY.

O foolish heart, be still!
And vex thyself no more!
Wait thou for God, until
He open pleasure's door.
Thou knowest not what is good for thee,
But God doth know;—
Let Him thy strong reliance be,
And rest thee so. C. F. GELLERT.

26. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.—1 *Cor.* iii. 9, 14.

Out of the common stones of your daily work, you may build yourself a temple which shall shelter your head from all harm, and bring down on you the inspiration of God. THEODORE PARKER.

Life is a quarry, out of which we are to mould and chisel and complete a character. GOETHE.

O, block by block, with sore and sharp endeavor,
Lifelong we build these human natures up
Into a temple fit for freedom's shrine.
BAYARD TAYLOR.

27. It is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing.—*Gal.* iv. 18.

Find your purpose and fling your life out to it; and the loftier your purpose is, the more sure you will be to make the world richer with every enrichment of yourself.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

Early hath life's mighty question
  Thrilled within thy heart of youth,
With a deep and strong beseeching,—
  What, and where, is truth?

Not to ease and aimless quiet
  Doth the inward answer tend;
But to works of love and duty,
  As our being's end. WHITTIER.

28. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwelleth in you? — 1 *Cor.* iii. 16.

If you were a statue of Phidias you would remember both yourself and the artist, and you would endeavor to be in no way unworthy of Him who formed you, nor of yourself. And are you now careless how you appear, when you are the workmanship of God himself?

EPICTETUS.

In the elder days of Art
  Builders wrought with greatest care
Each minute and unseen part,
  For the Gods see everywhere.

Let us do our work as well,
  Both the unseen and the seen,
Make the house where God may dwell,
  Beautiful, entire, and clean.

LONGFELLOW.

29. I will lead them in paths that they have not known. — *Isa.* xlii. 16.

God gives to each a varied experience. We march not in serried numbers to conquer a common foe, but He leads us through separate paths, each one to struggle with his own adversary alone, that, when the victory is gained, and the crown is won, each shall have in it a leaf or a chaplet which is unlike any other, so that all together may reflect every possible hue of the Divine loveliness.

E. H. SEARS.

Just as God leads, I onward go,
Oft amid thorns and briers keen;
God does not yet His guidance show;
But in the end it shall be seen,
How, by a loving Father's will,
Faithful and true, He leads me still.

LAMPERTUS.

30. Now is the accepted time.—2 *Cor.* vi. 2.

"There never was a day that did not bring its opportunity for doing good that never could have been done before, and never can be again. It must be improved then or never."

The present hour allots thy task;
For present strength and patience ask,
And trust His love whose sure supplies
Meet all thy needs as they arise.

While the day lingers, do thy best;
Full soon the night will bring its rest;
And duty done, that rest shall be
Full of beatitudes to thee.

W. H. BURLEIGH.

31. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.—*Rom.* xii. 10.

When Death, the great Reconciler has come, it is never our tenderness we repent of, but our severity.

GEORGE ELIOT.

How does Death speak of our beloved,
When it has laid them low,
When it has set its hallowing touch
On speechless lips and brow?

It clothes their every gift and grace
With radiance from the holiest place
With light as from an angel's face;

It sweeps their faults with heavy hand,
As sweeps the sea the trampled sand,
Till scarce the faintest point is scanned.

Thus does Death speak of our beloved,
When it has laid them low;
Then let Love antedate the work of Death
And do this now.

MRS. CHARLES.

SEPTEMBER.

1. For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.—*Gal.* vi. 7.

Thy deeds now are the seed corn of eternity. Each single act on each several day, good or bad, is a portion of that seed. Each day adds some line, making thee more or less like Him, more or less capable of his Love, fitter for greater or less glory, to be nearer Him or to be less near. DR. PUSEY.

Sow truth, if thou the truth wouldst reap;
Who sows the false, shall reap the vain.
Erect and sound thy conscience keep;
From hollow words and deeds refrain.

Fill up each hour with what will last;
Buy up the moments as they go;
The life above when this is past,
Is the ripe fruit of life below. BONAR.

2. Wilt thou not revive us again.— *Ps.* lxxxv. 6.

Do not be disturbed because of your imperfections, and always rise up bravely from a fall. I am glad that you make a daily new beginning; there is no better means of progress in the spiritual life than to be continually beginning afresh. FRANCIS DE SALES.

Every day is a fresh beginning
Listen, my soul, to the glad refrain,
And spite of old sorrow, and older sinning,
And puzzles forecasted, and possible pain,
Take heart with the day, and begin again."

3. Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. — 1 *John* iii. 1.

Do you know who you are? From that larger world for which we are born comes this summons to our slumbering spiritual nature. Do we feel no deep inward stirring as we hear that high calling? We are children of the King! If children, then heirs. Fear not: it is our Father's good pleasure to give us the kingdom.

CHARLES G. AMES.

"O Thou, whom we are taught in faith to call
Our Father, glad in our dear right we come
With mind, with soul, with spirit, bringing all
To learn accord with Thee, life's perfect sum;
Not as a slave, but as Thy child, we hear
Thy voice, and find in perfect love, no fear."

4. To him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward.—*Prov.* xi. 18.

"No thought, no word, no act of man ever dies. They are as immortal as his own soul. Somewhere in this world he will meet their fruits in part; somewhere in the future life he will meet their gathered harvest."

"Far in the distant years some deed of beauty
Hath struck the key-note of a bold refrain,
And many a noble act and high-souled duty
Led on the lofty strain.

Ah! glad the gathering when our time is ended
Of all the influence that one life hath cast;
The souls that through such earnest words have tended
Upward to heaven at last."

5. For who hath despised the day of small things? — *Zech.* iv. 10.

Life is not made up of great sacrifices of duties, but of little things, of which smiles and kindness and small obligations given habitually, are what win and preserve the heart. SIR HUMPHREY DAVY.

What can I do the cause of God to aid?
Can powers so weak as mine
Forward the great design?
Not by young hands are mighty efforts made,
But all can aid the work. The little child
May gather up some weed,
Or drop some fertile seed,
Or strew with flowers the path which else were dark and wild. J. H. CLINCH.

6. My father, thou art the guide of my youth.—*Jer.* iii. 4.

We want a guide who knows us, whether we be self-willed and over-confident, or despondent and over-sensitive,— who knows our frame and pities us, is not vexed with our ignorance and mistakes, but is tender toward us and patient. We want a guide who values character, and knows how to train while he guides. What better guide could we have than God? D. T. WOOLSEY.

"He leads us on
Through all the unquiet years;
Past all our dreamland hopes and doubts and fears
. . . He guides our steps. Through all the tangled maze
Of sin and sorrow and o'erclouded days
We know His will is done;
And still He leads us on."

7. Order my steps in thy word.— *Ps.* cxix. 133.

Every attempt to make others happy, every sin left behind, every temptation trampled under foot, every step forward in the cause of what is good, is a step nearer the cause of Christ. DEAN STANLEY.

I count this thing to be grandly true:
That a noble deed is a step toward God,
Lifting the soul from the common sod
To a purer air and a broader view.

Heaven is not reached by a single bound,
But we build the ladder by which we rise
From the lowly earth to the vaulted skies,
And we mount to its summit, round by round.
J. G. HOLLAND.

8. Thou, O Lord, knowest me.— *Jer.* xii. 3.

Every man who lives in the habitual practice of any voluntary sin cuts himself off from Christianity.
ADDISON.

"Think that He thy ways beholdeth;
He unfoldeth
Every fault that lurks within,
Every stain of shame glossed over
Can discover,
And discern each deed of sin."

Abide in me; o'ershadow by Thy love
Each half-formed purpose and dark thought of sin;
Quench, ere it rise, each selfish, low desire,
And keep my soul as Thine, calm and divine.
H. B. STOWE.

9. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.— *Ps.* xlvi. 7.

Every passing event gets a noble value from the assurance it gives us of God. This is the only real transfiguration of the dusty road, of the monotony and routine of living. It is all bright and beautiful, if in it all, God is giving us that certainty of Himself, by which we shall be fit to meet everything that we shall have to meet in this world and the world to come. PHILLIPS BROOKS.

"For the hidden scroll o'erwritten with one dear name adored,—
For the Heavenly in the human, the Spirit in the Word,—
For the tokens of Thy presence, within, above, abroad,—
For Thine own great gift of being, I thank Thee, O my God."

10. How excellent is thy loving kindness, O God!— *Ps.* xxxvi. 7.

There are questions which nothing can answer but God's love, which nothing can meet but God's promise, which nothing can calm but a perfect trust in his goodness. There is shadow and mystery upon all the creation until we see God in it,— there is trouble and fear until we see God's love in it. DR. DEWEY.

Deep at the heart of all our pain,
In loss as surely as in gain,
His love abideth still.
Let come what will, my feet shall stand
On this firm rock, at His right hand;
"Father, it is thy will."

J. W. CHADWICK.

11. Learn first to show piety at home, . . . for that is good and acceptable before God.— 1 *Tim.* v. 4.

Who shall estimate the virtue, what tongue shall spread the power of home influence? It is the chisel which graves deep and lasting inscriptions on the character. It gives shape to the plastic clay of human feeling, moulding it for eternity. God has given a mighty trust to them who cluster around the fireside of home. M. J. BISHOP.

God hides Himself within the love
Of those whom we love best;
The smiles and tones that make our homes
Are shrines by Him possessed.

W. C. GANNETT.

12. Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. — *John* xii. 24.

The higher must always come through the loss and death of the lower. Manhood can only be gained by the giving up of childhood. If the office and life-work are ever to be reached, the nursery must be left behind. The blossom must die before there can be fruit. M. J. SAVAGE.

To-day is but a structure built
Upon dead yesterday;
And Progress hews her temple-stones
From wrecks of old decay.

Then mourn not death; 'tis but a stair
Built with divinest art,
Up which the deathless footsteps climb
Of loved ones who depart.

M. J. SAVAGE.

13. O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? — *Matt.* xiv. 31.

Every "kept from" should have its corresponding and still more blessed "kept for." F. R. HAVERGAL.

A dewdrop falling on the wild sea wave,
Exclaimed in fear, "I perish in this grave!"
But in a shell received, that drop of dew
Into a pearl of marvellous beauty grew,
And happy now, the grace did magnify
Which thrust it forth, as it had feared, to die;
Until again, "I perish quite," it said,
Torn by a rude diver from its ocean bed.
Oh unbelieving! So it came to gleam
Chief jewel in a monarch's diadem.

From the Persian.

14. That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.— *Eph.* iii. 16.

Whenever we attempt to approach God, we must do so with all the earnestness which is at our command; nay, with more than we can actually *command*, with all that we can *obtain* from God, who, if we ask Him, will ever help to prepare His own sacrifice, and who does, in fact, aid every prayer, e'er He accepts it.

FRANCES POWER COBBE.

O dull of heart! enclosed doth lie
In each "Come, Lord," an "Here am I."
Thy love, thy longing, are not thine,
Reflections of a love divine;
Thy very prayer to thee was given,
Itself a messenger from heaven.

R. C. TRENCH.

15. A sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing to God.—*Phil.* iv. 18.

"The noblest end of life is to live for the service of God. And everything is His service, by which we can be or give a blessing to another."

Never are kind acts done
To wipe the weeping eyes,
But like flashes of the sun
They signal to the skies;
And up above the angels read
How we have helped the sorer need.

Never a day is given,
But it tones the after years,
And it carries up to heaven
Its sunshine or its tears;
While the to-morrows stand and wait,
The silent mutes by the outer gate.

HENRY BURTON

16. Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked ways in me. — *Ps.* cxxxix 23, 24.

The Lord always does His own work thoroughly, if we will only let Him do it; if we put our case into His hands, He will search and probe fully and firmly, though very tenderly. F. R. HAVERGAL.

"Great Sculptor! hew and polish us, nor let
Hidden and lost, Thy form within us lie.
Spare not the stroke; do with us as Thou wilt;
Let there be naught unfurnished, broken, marred;
Complete Thy purpose that we may become
Thy perfect image, O our God and Lord."

17. He shall quicken your mortal bodies by his spirit that dwelleth in you.— *Rom.* viii. 11.

Oh! my friends, if there be nothing celestial without us, it is only because all is earthly within; . . . if our Father seems distant, it is because we have taken our portion of goods and travelled into a far country, that we may foolishly enjoy, rather than reverently serve.

JAMES MARTINEAU.

In finding Thee are all things round us found,
In losing Thee are all things lost beside;
Ears have we, but in vain sweet voices sound,
And to our eyes the vision is denied.

Open our eyes that we that world may see,
Open our ears that we Thy voice may hear,
And in the spirit land may ever be,
And feel Thy presence with us always near.

JONES VERY.

18. For thou renderest to every man according to his work.— *Ps.* lxii. 12.

Dreams pass; work remains. They tell us that not a sound has ever ceased to vibrate through space; that not a ripple has ever been lost upon the ocean. Much more is it true that not a true thought nor a pure resolve, nor a loving act has ever gone forth in vain.

F. W. ROBERTSON.

"For no one doth know
What he can bestow,
What strength, light and beauty may after him go:
Thus onward we move,
And save God above
None guesseth how wondrous the journey may prove."

19. Behold we are in thine hand; as it seemeth good and right unto thee to do unto us, do.—*Josh.* ix. 25.

Everything which befalls us is part of our heaven and education. Every event and condition of life is a lesson which is to be turned to account to make us more worthy of Him who by suffering was made perfect, who Himself entered not into joy until first He had suffered pain.

DEAN STANLEY.

I would not have my life go on,
A level stretch from sun to sun,
And miss the glorious sights I get
From Calvary and Olivet.
These rugged paths that wound my feet,
These tribulations that I meet,
Are stepping-stones by which I climb
To glories endless and sublime.

JOSEPHINE POLLARD.

20. Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.— 1 *Sam.* xvi. 7.

In the sight of God, greatness does not depend upon the extent of the sphere that is filled, or the amount of effect that may be produced; but altogether on the power of virtue in the soul; in the energy with which God's will is performed, with which trials are borne, and goodness loved and pursued. W. E. CHANNING.

It is not the deed that we do,
Though the deed be never so fair,
But the love that the dear Lord looketh for
Hidden with holy care
In the heart of the deed so fair.

H. M. KIMBALL.

21. But godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.— 1 *Tim.* iv. 8.

Man's actions here are of infinite moment to him and never die or end at all; man with his little life, reaches upwards high as heaven, downwards low as hell, and in his threescore years of time holds an eternity fearfully and wonderfully hidden. CARLYLE.

"A few short years — and then
What of our life remains,
The smiles and tears of other years,
Of passion's joys, of sorrow's pains,
Ambition's hopes and fears?
A faded dream
To-day they seem,
Which memory scarce can trace.
But seals they've set
Shall Time, nor yet
Eternity efface."

22. In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust.—*Ps.* lxxi. 1.

In order to see into mankind, into life, and still more into ourselves, suffering is requisite. RICHTER.

"Why is the sun more bright for rain,
Why does night bring forth the day,
Why do souls grow strong through pain?
'Tis God's way.

"Him to trust though sunbeams fail,
Him to love though loves decay,
Him to see behind the veil,
Be my way."

23. A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.— *Prov.* xvii. 22.

"In this world, where there is so much real sorrow, and so much unnecessary grief of fret and worry, how grateful ought we to be that God sends along, here and there, a a natural heart-singer, who by his very carriage and spontaneous actions, calms, cheers and helps his fellows. God bless the good-natured, for they bless everybody else."

"Be more cheerful; do not worry:
There is time enough to do
Every day the daily duties
That your Father sendeth you,
And to find some little moments
For heart music fresh and new."

24. I am . . thy exceeding great reward.– *Gen.* xv. 1.

A great part of this earthly tuition and discipline is not more to work out the evil that is in us, than to prepare us to receive what God has in readiness to give us. God is an imposer of duties; yes, but beyond that, He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

THEODORE MUNGER.

Out of the strain of the Doing,
Into the peace of the Done;
Out of the thirst of Pursuing,
Into the rapture of Won;
Out of gray mist into brightness,
Out of pale dusk into dawn,—
Out of all wrong into rightness,
We from these fields shall be gone.
"Nay," say the saints, "not gone, but come,
Into eternity's 'Harvest Home!'"

W. M L. JAY.

25. The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.— *Joshua* xxiv. 24.

Obedience must be the struggle and desire of our life; obedience not hard and forced, but ready, loving and spontaneous; . . . the doing of duty not merely that the duty may be done, but that the soul in doing it may become capable of receiving and uttering God.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

My blessed task for every day,
Is humbly, gladly, to obey.
And though I daily, hourly, fail
To bring my task to Him complete,
And must with constant tears bewail
My failures at my Master's feet,
No other service would I ask,
Than this my blessed, blessed task.

H. M. KIMBALL.

26. Know ye not, that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.— 1 *Cor.* v. 6.

Each of us is bound to make the little circle in which he lives better and happier; each of us is bound to see that out of that small circle the widest good may flow; . . that out of a single household may flow influences which shall stimulate the whole commonwealth and the whole civilized world. DEAN STANLEY.

Our many deeds, the thoughts that we have thought,
They go out from us thronging every hour;
And in them all is folded up a power
That on the earth doth move them to and fro;
And mighty are the marvels they have wrought
In hearts we know not and may never know.

F. W. FABER.

27. But godliness with contentment is great gain.—1 *Tim.* vi. 6.

Never fancy you could be something if only you had a different lot and sphere assigned to you. The very things that you most deprecate, as fatal limitations or obstructions are probably what you most want. What you call hindrances, obstacles, discouragements, are probably God's opportunities. HORACE BUSHNELL.

"Despise not thou small things;
The soul that longs for wings
To soar to some great height of sacrifice, too oft
Forgets the daily round,
Where little cares abound,
And shakes off little duties while she looks aloft."

28. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace.—*Is.* lii. 7.

May every step of our feet be more and more like those of our beloved Master. Let us continually consider Him in this, and go where He would have gone, on the errands which He would have done, "following hard" after Him.
F. R. HAVERGAL.

And He hath said "How beautiful the feet!
The feet so weary, travel-stained and worn —
The feet that humbly, patiently have borne
The toilsome way, the pressure and the heat.

With weary human feet, He, day by day,
Once trod this earth to work His acts of love
And every step is chronicled above
His servants take to follow in His way."
L. G. STOCK.

29. If any man do his will, he shall know of the doctrine. — *John* vii. 17.

We are bound to obey the truth, and that to the full extent of our knowledge thereof, however little that may be. This obligation acknowledged and obeyed, the road is open to all truth — and the only road. The way to know is to do the known. GEORGE MACDONALD.

Open thy door straightway, and get thee hence;
Go forth into the tumult and the shout;
Work, love, with workers, lovers, all about:
Of noise alone is born the inward sense
Of silence; and from action springs alone
The inward knowledge of true love and faith.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

30. Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. — *Matt.* xxviii. 20.

Let thought and feeling be hallowed by the knowledge that you are the child of God, and called to be His servant from change to change. Live from one varied scene to another as if you felt the presence of Him who is with you always, even to the end of the world.

STOPFORD BROOKE.

Abide in me, there have been moments blest
When I have heard thy voice and felt thy power;
Then evil lost its grasp, and passion hushed,
Owned the divine enchantment of the hour.

These were but seasons, beautiful and rare;
Abide in me and they shall ever be.
Fulfil at once thy precept and my prayer,
Come, and abide in me, and I in thee.

JULIA WARD HOWE.

OCTOBER.

1. Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. — 1 *Tim.* iv. 12.

Beyond all wealth, honor, or even health, is the attachment we form to noble souls; because to become one with the good, generous and true, is to become in a measure, good, generous and true ourselves. DR. ARNOLD.

Whene'er a noble deed is wrought,
Whene'er is spoken a noble thought
Our hearts in glad surprise
To higher levels rise.
The tidal wave of deeper souls
Into our inmost being rolls
And lifts us unawares
Out of all meaner cares. LONGFELLOW.

2. My grace is sufficient for thee. — 2 *Cor.* xii. 9.

The meaning of life, of its happiness and its sorrows, of its successes and its disappointments, is this — that man must be fastened close to God, and live by the divine life not his own, by the divine life made his own by the close binding of the two together by faith and love.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

To be made with Thee one spirit
Is the boon that I lingering ask,
To have no bar 'twixt my soul and Thine;
My thoughts to echo Thy will divine;
Myself Thy servant for any task.
Life! Life! I may enter through Thee, the Door,
Saved, sheltered forevermore. LUCY LARCOM.

3. He being dead, yet speaketh. — *Heb.* xi. 4.

Oh, what manner of men should we be in life when we think of all that we shall do when we are dead! Being dead, you will speak; what sort will be your speech? . . . Let your works follow you with inspiring power, speak from the grave to comfort, kindle and redeem. STOPFORD BROOKE.

Like rills on the mountains together that run,
And make the great river below,
So each little life, and the work of each one
To one common current shall flow.
And borne on each wave, like ships on the tide,
The lives of mankind shall move on;
Nor in vain have we lived, nor in vain have we died,
If we live in the work we have done.

F. L. HOSMER.

4. In her tongue is the law of kindness. — *Prov.* xxxi. 26.

Always say a kind word if you can, if only that it may come in perhaps, with singular opportuneness, entering some mournful man's darkened room like a beautiful firefly, whose happy convolutions he cannot but watch, forgetting his many troubles. ARTHUR HELPS.

It may be glorious to write
Thoughts that shall glad the two or three
High souls like those far stars that come in sight
Once in a century: —
But better far it is to speak
One simple word, which now and then
Shall waken their free natures in the weak
And friendless sons of men. LOWELL.

5. Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. — *Eph.* v. 19.

A good conscience is a great soul-harmony. . . . . And the rich notes of that inner melody are filling its possessor with their own joy, so that he cares not for accusations, or poverty, or discomforts from without, so long as his true conscience is so voiceful with happy harmony within. FREDERICK BROOKS.

There are in this loud, stunning tide
Of human care and crime
With whom the melodies abide
Of the everlasting chime.

Who carry music in their heart,
Through dusky lane and wrangling mart,
Plying their daily task with busier feet
Because their secret souls a holy strain repeat.
KEBLE.

6. The Lord sustained me. — *Ps.* iii. 5.

It is a great truth, wonderful as it is undeniable, that all our happiness, temporal, spiritual and eternal, consists in one thing, namely, in resigning ourselves to God, and in leaving ourselves with Him to do with us, and in us, just as He pleases. MADAME GUYON.

"Make a little fence of trust
Around to-day;
Fill the space with loving work
And therein stay.
Look not through the sheltering bars
Upon to-morrow,
God will help thee bear what comes
Of joy or sorrow."

7. Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. — *James* i. 12.

The greatest hero is perhaps the man who does his very best and signally fails, and yet is not embittered by his failure. A life here in which you fail of every end you seek, yet which disciplines you for a better, is assuredly not a failure.

I will go forth 'mong men not mailed in scorn,
But in the armor of a pure intent;
Great duties are before me, and great songs,
And whether crowned or crownless when I fall,
It matters not, so as God's work is done.

ALEXANDER SMITH.

8. Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. — 1 *Cor.* xv. 58.

The world's advance is due only to the hopes, the plans, the prayers, and the work of living men and women who have tasted of the water of life for themselves, and know what it is to live, and are determined that the rest of the world shall have life more abundantly, as Jesus Christ himself has promised. E. E. HALE.

For this is Love's nobility, —
Not to scatter bread and gold,
Goods and raiment bought and sold,
But to hold fast his simple sense
And speak the speech of innocence,
. . . . . .
For he that feeds men serveth few;
He serves all who dares be true. EMERSON.

9. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age. — *Ps.* xcii. 14.

"When old age comes, what then? The preparation for it is a pure life, and faithfulness to duty now. First of all, try to make the best of it; not the best of what is bad at the best, but of what is, if I will but understand it, the best of my whole life, because it is the last."

"Grow old, then, cheerily;
The best is yet to be
The last of life, for which the first was made."

The soul to God's heart moving on,
Owns but the Infinite for home;
Whatever with the past has gone
The best is always yet to come.

LUCY LARCOM.

10. That we may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ. — *Eph.* iv. 15.

Draw strength for little duties and for great duties from Christ. Do not feel as if His strength is not needed until some great crisis comes, but draw upon it daily in the smaller difficulties of life, in the daily trials of character, in the preparations for greater things.

T. D. WOOLSEY

God keep us through the common days,
The level stretches, white with dust,
When thought is tired, and hands upraise
Their burdens feebly, since they must.
In days of slowly fretting care,
Then most we need the strength of prayer

MARGARET E. SANGSTER

11. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. — *Matt.* v. 4.

"But I know God hears the sobs in the dark, and the dropping tears."

All who walk steep ways, in grief and night,
Where every step is full of toil and pain,
May see when they have gained the sharpest height,
It has not been in vain,
Since they have left behind the noise and heat,
And though their eyes drop tears, their sight is clear,
The air is purer, and the breeze is sweet,
And the blue heaven more near. E. A. ALLEN.

12. Not knowing the things that shall befall me there. — *Acts* xx. 22.

"Waste not your time in fears and thoughts of the future in this world. To you the future may be short. The things you most fear will probably never disturb you. If evils come, they will probably be such as no foresight of man can anticipate."

I see not a step before me, as I tread the days of the year,
But the past is still in God's keeping, the future His mercy shall clear,
And what looks dark in the distance may brighten as I draw near.

My heart shrinks back from trials which the future may disclose,
Yet I never had a sorrow but what the dear Lord chose;
So I send the coming tears back with the whispered word
"He knows."

13. Honour all men. — 1 *Peter* ii. 17.

"There is no life so humble that if it be true and genuinely human and obedient to God, it may not hope to shed some of His light. There is no life so meagre that the greatest and wisest of us can afford to despise it. We cannot know at what moment it may flash forth with the life of God."

"A commonplace life," we say, and we sigh;
But why should we sigh as we say?
The commonplace sun in the commonplace sky
Makes up the commonplace day.
The moon and the stars are commonplace things,
And the flower that blooms and the bird that sings;
But dark were the world, and sad our lot
If the flowers failed, and the sun shone not;
And God, who studies each separate soul
Out of commonplace lives makes His beautiful whole.

SUSAN COOLIDGE.

14. Let a man examine himself. — 1 *Cor.* xi. 28.

In the morning fix thy good purpose; and at night examine thyself, what thou hast done, how thou hast behaved thyself in word, deed, and thought. Á KEMPIS.

"At evening to myself I say
My soul, where hast thou gleaned to-day?
Thy labors how bestowed?
What hast thou rightly said or done?
What grace attained or knowledge won
In following after God?"

15. For ye are not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance which the Lord your God giveth you. — *Deut.* xii. 9.

Let us beware that our rest become not the rest of stones, which so long as they are torrent-tossed and thunder-stricken, maintain their majesty, but when the stream is silent and the storm past, suffer the grass to cover them, and the lichen to feed on them, and are ploughed down into dust. RUSKIN.

"Rest is not quitting the busy career,
Rest is the fitting of self to one's sphere.

"'Tis the brook's motion, — clear, without strife,
Fleeting to ocean after this life.

"'Tis living and serving the highest and best,
'Tis onward, unswerving, — and this is true rest."

16. Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you. — 1 *Peter* v. 7

How beautiful this world would be if we always saw God in it as our friend and father. If we saw immortal love in all things, how joyful would work become, how easy all our duty grow, how simplified the problems of life! That would be the coming of the kingdom of God, the reign of the Prince of Peace. J. F. CLARKE.

I ask not, take away this weight of care;
No, for that love I pray that all can bear;
And for that faith that whatso'er befall,
Must needs be good, and for my profit prove,
Since from my Father's heart most rich in love,
And from His bounteous hands it cometh all.

SPITTA.

17. In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. — *Phil.* iv. 6.

Answers to prayer are often long in coming, and the thing we ask, when it does come, comes often in another shape, and as often, something else comes instead of it. We must be careful not to fret ourselves over much about the answer to our prayers. We should pray in faith, and with a deep sense of our unworthiness, and leave the rest to God. F. W. FABER.

"Not that my Father gives to me
More blessings than in days gone by,
Dropping in my uplifted hands
All things for which I blindly cry,
But spite of many broken dreams,
This have I truly learned to say,
Prayers which I thought unanswered once,
Were answered in God's own best way."

18. He that is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much. — *Luke* xvi. 10.

"We dream of doing great things, when we have need only to be content with doing little things close at hand."

Let us be content in work
To do the thing we can; and not presume
To fret because it's little.

E. B. BROWNING.

True worth is in being, not seeming,
In doing each day that goes by
Some little good, — not in the dreaming
Of great things to do by and by.

ALICE CARY.

19. Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel, should live of the gospel. —1 *Cor.* ix. 14.

We should preach God's glory day by day, not by words only, often not by words at all, but by our conduct. If you wish your neighbors to see what God is like, let them see what He can make *you* like. Nothing is so infectious as example. CHARLES KINGSLEY.

No stream from its source
Flows seaward, how lonely soever its course,
But what some land is gladdened. No star ever rose
And set without influence somewhere. Who knows
What earth needs from earth's lowest creature? No life
Can be pure in its purpose, and strong in its strife,
And all life not be purer and stronger thereby.
OWEN MEREDITH.

20. And work: for I am with you, saith the Lord of hosts. — *Haggai* ii. 4.

Genuine work done, what thou workest faithfully, that is eternal! Take courage then; raise the arm; strike home, and that right lustily; the citadel of hope must yield to noble desire, thus seconded by noble effort.
CARLYLE.

On! let all the soul within you
For the truth's sake go abroad:
Strike! let every nerve and sinew
Tell on ages — tell for God. COXE.

Here eyes do regard you
In eternity's stillness;
Here is all fullness,
Ye brave, to reward you:
Work, and despair not. GOETHE.

21. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. — *Matt.* v. 6.

Nothing can really haunt us, except what we have the beginning of, the native capacity for, however hindered, in ourselves. The ideal life, the life of full completions, haunts us all. . . . We feel the thing we ought to be beating beneath the thing we are. PHILLIPS BROOKS.

"Waiting for Spring! The hearts of men are watching
Each for some better, brighter, fairer thing!
Each ear a distant sound most sweet is catching,
A herald of the beauty of his spring.

"It must be so — the man, the soul, the nation,
The mother by her child — we wait, we wait
Dreaming out futures; life is expectation,
A grub, a root that holds our higher state."

22. In thine hand it is to give strength unto all. — 1 *Chron.* xxix. 12.

Things which never could have made a man happy, develop a power to make him strong. Strength and not happiness, or rather only that happiness which comes by strength, is the end of human living.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

"Father, hear the prayer we offer:
Not for ease that prayer shall be;
But for strength, that we may ever
Live our lives courageously.

"Be our strength in hours of weakness,
In our wanderings, be our guide,
Through endeavor, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side."

23. When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble? — *Job.* xxxiv. 29.

True resignation is simply this: to have such a trust in God, that, for His sake we will bear evil, and bear it patiently, believing that He will make it work out good for us in the end. Evil can never become good; but God can rule it, and make it serve us. M. J. SAVAGE.

I would be quiet, Lord,
Nor tease, nor fret
Not one small need of mine
Wilt thou forget.

What I most crave perchance
Thou wilt withhold,
As we from hands unmeet
Keep pearls or gold.

Yet choose thou for me, — Thou
Who knowest best:
This one short prayer of mine
Holds all the rest. JULIA C. R. DORR.

24. He that diligently seeketh good, procureth favor. — *Prov.* xi. 21.

There is so much to be set right in the world, there are so many to be led, and helped and comforted, that we must continually come in contact with such in our daily life. Let us only take care that we do not miss our turn of service, and pass by those to whom we might have been sent on an errand, straight from God. — *Rays of Sunlight.*

Love and be happy in thyself, and serve
This mortal race, thy kin, so well that men
May bless thee. TENNYSON.

25. Seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses. — *Heb.* xii. 1.

We all talk of angels and saints; did you never think that there is not a home, however homely, that has not in it the germ of angels and saints? yea, real saints and angels, as you shall believe them if God takes from you the outward form that oftentimes annoys, and distresses, and separates. N. A. STAPLES.

Hand in hand with angels,
In the busy street,
By the winter hearth-fires, —
Everywhere, — we meet,
Though unfledged and songless,
Birds of Paradise;
Heaven looks at us daily
Out of human eyes. LUCY LARCOM.

26. The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men. — *Dan.* iv. 32.

Divine Omnipotence removes distress, but it is also divine Omnipotence that inflicts it, and there must have been as good grounds for sending, as for mending it. We know that the same hand which dispenses our afflictions, furnishes also those medicinal agents which help to combat them. THOLUCK.

"Think not that from some foe the burden came,
And all you owe to God is strength to bear it,
The cross, the curb, are His, because the same
Almighty power must will who could repair it.
Seek, then, my child, thy Father's mind to know
In what befalls thee, be it weal or woe."

27. Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart. — 1 *Sam.* xvi. 7.

In the lack of all human recognition, surely the Lord knoweth them that are His. His great heart of love will go out to them, till He has done for them exceeding abundantly above all that they ask or think.

S. F. SMILEY.

He, the Wise, the Everlasting,
Giveth heed,
Knows each need,
As through the world I'm hasting.
Shall my Father e'er forget me?
His the will
I fulfil,
My measure He hath set me.

ZSCHOKKE.

28. He that doeth the will of God abideth forever. — 1 *John* ii. 7.

There is the need that a man should sacrifice himself to himself, his lower self to his higher self, his passions to his principles. There is the need of sacrificing one's self for fellow-men. There is the highest need of all, the need of giving up our will to God's. PHILLIPS BROOKS.

Leaning on Him make with reverent meekness,
His own, thy will;
And with strength from Him shall thy utter weakness
Life's task fulfil;
And that cloud itself which now before thee
Lies dark in view,
Shall with beams of light, from the inner glory
Be stricken through. WHITTIER.

29. The water that I shall give him, shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. — *John* iv. 14.

Wherever the water of life is received, it sinks and softens and hollows, until it reaches, far down, the springs of life there also, that come straight from the eternal hills, and thenceforth there is in that soul a well of water springing up into everlasting life. GEORGE MACDONALD.

Happy, I thought, that which can draw its life
Deep from the nether springs,
Safe neath the pressure, tranquil neath the strife
Of surface things: —
Safe, — for the sources of the nether springs
Up in the far hill lie;
Calm, — for their life its power and freshness brings
Down from the sky. JOHN KER.

30. They looked. . . and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. — *Ex.* xvi. 10.

Get into the habit of looking for the silver lining of the cloud, and when you have found it, continue to look at it, rather than at the leaden gray in the middle. It will help you over many hard places. A. A. WILLITS.

Each cloud has of silver a lining,
Though we may not see its light.
The sun has not ceased its shining,
Though hidden awhile from our sight.
Be faithful and active and earnest;
In idleness never sit down:
The better the dark cross you carry,
The brighter will sparkle your crown.
WM. JOHNSON.

31. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out. — *Rev.* iii. 12.

O if the stone can only have some vision of the temple of which it is to lie a part forever, what patience must fill it as it feels the blows of the hammer, and knows that success for it is simply to let itself be wrought into what shape the Master wills. PHILLIPS BROOKS.

"O blows that smite! O hurts that pierce
This shrinking heart of mine!
What are ye but the Master's tools
Forming a work divine?

. . . . . .

Sculptor of souls! I lift to Thee
Encumbered heart and hands;
Spare not the chisel, set me free
However dear the bands.
How blest if all these seeming ills
Which draw my thoughts to Thee
Should only prove that Thou will make
An angel out of me"

NOVEMBER.

1. Now the God of peace . . . make you perfect in every good work.— *Heb.* xiii. 20, 21.

"For every good deed of ours, the world will be better always. And perhaps no day does a man walk down a street cheerfully, and like a child of God, without some passengers being brightened by his face, and, unknowingly to himself, catching from its look a something of religion."

Be sure no earnest work
Of any honest creature, howbeit weak,
Imperfect, ill-adapted, fails so much
It is not gathered as a grain of sand
To enlarge the sum of human action used
For carrying out God's end. MRS. BROWNING.

2. Who art thou that judgest another?—*James* iv. 12.

I find that it conduces to my mental health and happiness to find out all I can which is amiable and lovable in those I come in contact with, and to make the most of it. It may fall very short of what I was once wont to dream of, but it is better than nothing. It keeps the heart alive in its humanity, and till we shall be all spiritual, this is alike our duty and our interest. MORAVIAN.

"Judge not hastily of others;
But thine own salvation mind;
Nor be lynx-eyed to thy brother's,
To thine own offences blind.
God alone
Discerns thine own
And the hearts of all mankind."

3. Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters. — *Isa.* xxxii. 20.

"Every act done in the great work of human progress will ever live. Every act which tends to the annihilation of error is a little rock started from the mountain-top, which gathers force on its way downward, and starts others at every bound."

Each drop of blood that e'er through true heart ran
With lofty message, ran for thee and me;
For God's law, since the starry song began
Hath been, and still forevermore must be,
That every deed which shall outlast Time's span
Must goad the soul to be erect and free.

LOWELL.

4. Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. — *John* viii. 34.

When a man begins to do wrong, he cannot answer for himself how far he may be carried on. He does not see beforehand, he cannot know where he will find himself after the sin is committed. One false step forces him to another, — one evil concession requires another.

DR. NEWMAN.

He who is indeed the Lord's
Follows Him always and will shun
In all his actions, thoughts and words,
All sin, or an approach to one.
Begin then first with little things,
The smallest sin avoid and hate;
Obedience to love adds wings,
And little faith will grow to great.

SPITTA.

5. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. — *Ps.* cxxxix. 3.

The Infinite Goodness is not far off, but near us; . . . the evening shade, the guarded sleep, the morning resurrection, every bounty that falls from heaven, every bounty that springs from earth, every loving heart that blesses us, every sacred example that wins us, all these are the revelation, the manifested love of the One, all-holy, all-perfect, whom to know is life. DR. DEWEY.

"When darkness gathers round my path,
And all my song-birds cease to sing,
I know it is not sent in wrath, —
'Tis but the shadow of Thy wing.
When dancing sunbeams round me shine,
And joy and peacefulness embrace,
I know the radiance is not mine, —
'Tis just the brightness of Thy face."

6. Ask, and it shall be given you, seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. — *Luke* xi. 9.

The best things in the divine life, as in the natural, will not come to us merely for the asking; true prayer is the whole strength of the whole man going out after his needs, and the real secret of getting what you want in heaven as on earth, lies in the fact that you give your whole heart to it, or you cannot adequately value it when you get it.

R. COLLYER.

"Say what is prayer, when it is prayer indeed?
The mighty utterance of a mighty need,
The man is praying, who doth press with might
Out of his darkness, into God's own light."

7. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. — I. *John* iv. 12.

The highest is not to despise the lowest, nor the lowest to envy the highest; each must live in all and by all. So God has ordered that men, being in need of each other, should need to love each other, and bear each other's burdens. G. A. SALA.

"One thought alone shall bring redress
For that great heaviness;
That I have held each struggling soul
As of one kin and blood;
That one sure link doth all control
To one close brotherhood;
For who the race of men doth love,
Loves also Him above."

8. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.— *Isa.* xi. 29.

Be not wearied out by the labors thou hast undertaken for my sake, nor let tribulations cast thee down ever at all; but let my promise strengthen and comfort thee under every circumstance. Á KEMPIS.

"Why should ye murmur and sigh and fret,
And follow each bent and calling?
The violet patiently waits to be wet
With the dews at the night-time falling;
And the robin knows that the spring will come
Though the winds are around her wailing.
God hath His plan
For every man
And His ways are never failing."

9. A patient man will bear for a time, and afterward joy shall spring up unto him. — *Eccles.* I. 23.

Let those who crave the outward show of success turn to the example of the Great Teacher. During his own life how small were the apparent results of his ministry. Who can estimate now the stupendous results which have followed directly from those three years. . . . Here surely is encouragement for men to work on, nothing doubting, sure that the same God rules now as then.

SAMUEL A. SMITH.

"Courage and patience! Is the Master sleeping?
Has he no plan, no purposes of love?
What though awhile His counsel He is keeping,
It is maturing in the world above."

10. I must work the work of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. — *John* ix. 4.

Just in proportion as a man becomes good, divine, Christ-like, he passes out of the region of theorizing, of system-building, and hireling service, into the region of beneficent activities. It is well to think well. It is divine to act well.

HORACE MANN.

Abide not in the realm of dreams,
O man, however fair it seems;
But with clear eyes the present scan,
And hear the call of God and man.

Think not in sleep to fold thy hands,
Forgetful of thy Lord's commands:
From duty's claims no life is free,—
Behold, to-day hath need of thee!

CHARLES BURLEIGH.

11. He is faithful that promised.— *Heb.* x. 23.

God does not give grace until the hour of trial comes. But when it does come, the amount of grace and the nature of the special grace required is vouchsafed. Do not perplex thyself with what is needed for future emergencies; to-morrow will bring its promised grace along with to-morrow's trials. J. R. MACDUFF.

Still in our nights of deep distress
The manna falls our hearts to bless.
And famished, as we cry for bread,
With heavenly food our lives are fed.
And each day's need finds each day's store
Enough. Dear Lord, what want we more?
MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

12. Love one another, as I have loved you.— *John* xv. 12.

The greatest gift of our Heavenly Father is love, and of all gifts it is the most common. This alone is universal, and the humblest soul, in spite of the lack of opportunity, may so live that by sheer strength of love alone it may create for itself a heaven full of the presence of God, who is the Almighty Love.

Fill thy heart with ever-active love,—
Love for the wicked, as in sin he lies,
Love for thy brother here, thy God above;
Fear nothing ill; 'twill vanish in its day;
Live for the good, taking the ill thou must.
Toil with thy might, with manly labor pray;
Living and loving, learn thy God to trust,
And He will pour upon thy soul the blessings of the just. THEODORE PARKER.

13. What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. — *John* xiii. 7.

Some day, He will tell you why He has tried you, and let you look back upon your life story and see the golden thread of His fatherly love and care shining over and around it all, not as it is now, winding in and out, and only seen by glimpses. F. R. HAVERGAL.

Sometime, when all life's lessons have been learned,
And sun and stars forevermore have set,
The things which our weak judgment here has spurned,
The things o'er which we grieved with lashes wet,
Will flash before us out of life's dark night,
As stars shine most in deeper tints of blue;
And we shall see how all God's plans were right,
And how what seemed reproof was love most true.

M. R. SMITH.

14. It is good for me that I have been afflicted.— *Ps.* cxix. 71.

Stars shine brightest in the darkest night; grapes come not to the proof till they come to the press. . . Such is the condition of all God's children; they are then most triumphant when most tested; most glorious when most afflicted. BOGATSKY.

As violins in foreign lands,
Broken and shattered o'er and o'er,
When mended and in skilful hands
Make sweeter music than before,
So oft the heart by sorrow torn
Gives forth a loftier, clearer song,
Than that which greeted us at morn
When it was new and brave and strong.

FRANCES GAGE.

15. Thou didst well that it was in thine heart. — 1 *Kings* viii. 18.

A mere feeling may fail you, but a helpful spirit never can. And if you say, "I am hedged about," . . . . "I fain would help, but I cannot," your very longing is help "They also serve who only stand and wait."

Ah! let us hope that to our praise
Good God not only reckons
The moments when we tread His ways,
But when the spirit beckons, —
That some slight good is also wrought
Beyond self-satisfaction,
When we are simply good in thought,
Howe'er we fail in action. LOWELL.

16. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. — *Matt.* vi. 34.

You have a disagreeable duty to do at twelve o'clock. Do not blacken nine and ten and all between with the color of twelve. Do the work of each, and reap your reward in peace. So when the dreaded moment in the future becomes the present you shall meet it walking in the light, and that light shall overcome its darkness.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

Because in a day of my days to come
There awaiteth a grief to be,
Shall my heart grow faint, and my lips be dumb,
In this day that is bright for me?

Nay, shadows across my sun may fall,
But as bright the sun shall shine;
For I walk in a light that cannot pall,
The light of the King divine. M. E. SANGSTER.

17. Serve the Lord with gladness.— *Ps.* c. 2.

"Look upon the bright side of all things. Believe that the best offering you can make to God is to enjoy to the full what He sends of good, and bear what He allows of evil, like a child who believes in all its father's dealings with it, whether it understands them or not."

Take Joy home,
And make a place in thy great heart for her
And give her time to grow, and cherish her.
Then will she come, and oft will sing to thee
When thou art working in the furrows; aye,
Or weeding in the sacred hour of dawn.
It is a comely fashion to be glad;
Joy is in the grace we say to God.

JEAN INGELOW.

18. Obey my voice . . . so shall ye be my people, and I will be your God.— *Jer.* xi. 4.

Right doing is the divine road to that knowledge wherein we find our peace and joy. "Thinking" is of service; but "obedience" only leads to the *knowing* in which eternal life is found. . . .

Then feel after God in the way of obedience, and you will find him ere long; for he is not far away. The experience of life will furnish an answer to your many questionings, and right doing will banish all your doubts.

RICHARD METCALF.

"We slumber while the present calls,
But darkness grows with rest;
Wouldst thou see truth? To action wake.
Do the divine behest."

19. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy strength and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.— *Luke* x. 27.

The precepts of Jesus are the essential element of his religion. Regard these as your rule of life, and you build your house upon a rock. Live them out indeed, and you have entered the Kingdom of Heaven — you even now enter it. W. E. CHANNING.

Then courage take, faint heart, and though the path be long,
God's simple rule thy steps will safely guide,—
"Love Him, thy neighbor as thyself, and do no wrong;"
In calm content they all shall surely bide,
Who walk with Him.

S. D. SEABURY.

20. Give us this day our daily bread.— *Matt.* vi. 11.

"In all our difficulties, perplexities, trials, it will help us to remember that we have to take but one step at a time. Let us ask God to help us take that one step bravely and unfalteringly. To-morrow's strength is very largely the heritage of to-day's patient striving."

"Let me both diligently work,
And duly pray,
Let me be kind in word and deed,
Just for to-day.

"For to-morrow and its needs
I do not pray,—
But keep me, guide me, love me, Lord,
Just for to-day."

21. With loving-kindness have I drawn thee.—*Jer.* xxxi. 3.

Recognize the ruling hand of God. Recognize the rule of God in all thy unfulfilled wishes; recognize it in all thy hopes fulfilled. In regard to both, love has been active for good. ZSCHOKKE.

Take courage to entrust your love
To Him so named, who guards above
Its ends and shall fulfil!
Breaking the narrow prayers that may
Befit your narrow hearts, away
In His broad, loving will.
E. B. BROWNING.

22. Refrain thy voice from weeping and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the Lord.—*Jer.* xxxi. 16.

"Let us wipe our tears, lift up our heads, and gird ourselves for brave and cheerful toil. In due time the release will come; rest so sweet after the toil is over; glory so bright after the darkness is past, victory so grand that we shall not wish the conflicts to have been less fierce, or the perils of the way less numerous or painful."

Who is the angel that cometh?
Pain!
Let us arise and go forth to greet him.
Not in vain
Is the summons come for us to meet him.
Let us say still, while his bitter chalice
Slowly into our heart is poured —
Blessed is he that cometh
In the name of the Lord.
ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

23. Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.— *Phil.* iii. 13.

When you make a mistake, don't look back at it long. Take the reason of the thing into your own mind, and then look forward. Mistakes are lessons of wisdom. . . . The past cannot be changed. The future is yet in your power. HUGH WHITE.

"How speaks the present hour? Act!
Walk, upward glancing.
So shall thy footsteps in glory be tracked,
Slow, but advancing.
Scorn not the smallness of daily endeavor,
Let the great meaning ennoble it ever,
Droop not o'er efforts expended in vain.
Work, as believing that labor is gain."

24. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.— *Phil.* ii. 4.

To watch one's soul all the time seeking for moral disease, is as bad as to search one's body all the time, seeking for physical disease. Do not look within to see whether your feelings are right; but look without, to see what you are doing for others; what you are saying; what your temper and spirits are to those about you. Look up, also, for higher light and more life.

J. F. CLARKE.

To look up and not down;
To look forward and not back;
To look out and not in;
And
To lend a hand. E. E. HALE.

25. I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.— 1 *Cor.* iii. 6.

The good we can each of us accomplish in this world is small. The good that all men in all ages could accomplish if they would, is vast. But in order that this may be done, each working being must serve his own generation, and do his part to render the next generation more efficient.

T. D. WOOLSEY.

Though few may praise, or help, or heed us,
Let us work on, with head, or heart, or hand;
For that we know the future ages need us,
And we must help our time to take its stand.

R. A. VAUGHAN.

26. Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee.— *Isa.* xxvi. 20.

Stated seasons of quiet and retirement are demanded for the nurturing of the spiritual nature. . . It is in such moments that we are able to realize the littleness of the frets and annoyances of the way, while it is at such seasons also that we rise with fresh incentives for holy duty, and resolutions for a nobler life.

J. R. MACDUFF.

The quiet of a shadow-haunted pool
Where light breaks through in glorious tenderness,
Where the hushed pilgrim in the shadow cool,
Forgets the way's distress,—

Such is this hour, this silent hour with Thee!
The trouble of the restless heart is still;
And every swaying wish breathes reverently
The whispers of Thy will. LUCY LARCOM.

27. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not built with hands, eternal in the heavens. — 2 *Cor.* v. 1.

God is our Father. Heaven is His high throne, and this earth is His footstool. While we sit around or meditate, or pray, one by one, as we fall asleep, He lifts us into His bosom, and our waking is inside the gates of an everlasting world. WM. MOUNTFORD.

We see but dimly through the mists and vapors;
Amid these earthly damps
What seem to us but sad funereal tapers,
May be heaven's distant lamps.

There is no death! What seems so is transition;
This life of mortal breath
Is but a suburb of the life elysian
Whose portal we call death. LONGFELLOW.

28. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.— *Rev* iii. 19.

No one ever sounded the heights and depths of life and drew from it the teaching and blessing which it is capable of giving, without enduring suffering, sharp and real, as a part of it. The year is not all composed of summer days, it has its long expanses of winter cold and gloom. GEORGE MCDONALD.

"We pray for growth and strength; grief's dreaded showers
May be in God's wide purpose, ripening rain:
He only knows how all our highest powers
Are perfected in pain."

29. They shall not labour in vain.— *Isa.* lxv. 23.

"Work on! and working right manfully, you will find that day by day, you are working out your own salvation from every morbid doubt and fear. Live on, the very best and fullest life that you can; live cheerfully if you can, but manfully always; and he that endureth to the end shall be saved."

What though the hour of promise long delay
To crown our patience with occasion fair?
No less the soul through every lingering day
Should keep for opportunity a chair.

Still must we sow like tillers of the earth,
Still hope for good proportioned to our needs,
Still work with action all the days of dearth,
And if the rain come, it will find our seeds.

GEORGE M. COOMER.

30. And he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.— *John* x. 3.

He is our shepherd, going before us and never behind; calling, but never driving, bearing all the losses he calls us to bear; meeting all the dangers, suffering all the cruelties and pains which it is given us to suffer, and drawing us to follow where he leads. HORACE BUSHNELL.

"He goes before! A shield against the storm,
A shadow in the noonday, light at night;
In danger's hour, there is the Shepherd's form
But just beyond; though fears may dim our sight,
Oh earthly flock, fear not forevermore!
Where'er we walk, our Shepherd goes before."

DECEMBER.

1. I give myself unto prayer. — *Ps.* cix. 4.

Men need to turn their thoughts to God; it is a necessity of their nature to commune, and to occupy themselves with the Highest Being; they cannot be happy without feeling in their hearts confiding trust in the wise and kind providence of an Infinite Father. ZSCHOKKE.

When prayer delights thee least, then learn to say,
Soul, now is greatest need that thou shouldst pray.
Crooked and warped I am and I would fain
Straighten myself by Thy right line again.

2. For so he giveth his beloved sleep. — *Ps.* cxxvii. 2.

It is a great thing that we are permitted to take that almost dearest word in our tongue — sleep — and give it to death, — sleep that ends our cares and relieves us from toil, that keeps soul and body quiet while God fills again the exhausted lamp of life. It is no small or unmeaning thing that Christ taught us to apply this word to that seeming loss and horror hitherto called death.

THEODORE MUNGER.

Sleep is a death; O make me try
By sleeping, what it is to die:
And as gently lay my head
On my grave as now my bed.
Howe'er I rest, great God, let me
Awake again at last with Thee.
And thus assured, behold I lie
Securely, or to wake, or die.

SIR THOMAS BROWNE.

3. Be strong in the Lord. — *Eph.* vi. 10.

Christ has lived, and he asks living followers. He has died, a sacrifice, and he asks the spirit of self-sacrifice in you. F. D. HUNTINGTON.

They are slaves who fear to speak
For the fallen and the weak;
They are slaves who will not choose
Hatred, scoffing and abuse,
Rather than in silence shrink
From the truth they needs must think.
They are slaves who dare not be
In the right with two or three. LOWELL.

4. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. — 2. *Cor.* iv. 17.

I beg you, my dear friend, whatever be your suffering, to learn first of all that not to take your sorrow off is what God means, but to put strength into you that you may carry it. Be sure your sorrow is not giving you its best, unless it makes you a more thoughtful person than you have ever been before. PHILLIPS BROOKS.

Do not cheat thy heart, and tell her
"Grief will pass away —
Hope for fairer times in future,
And forget to-day."
Tell her if you will, that sorrow
Need not come in vain —
Tell her, that the lesson taught her
Far outweighs the pain.
ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

5. Tribulation worketh patience; and patience experience; and experience hope. — *Rom.* v. 3, 4.

All the past is shut up within us, and is a sort of perpetual present. All the future is before us, and though duty is a present thing, it is constructed out of the past, and runs endlessly into the future. We thus have the past with its memories, the present with its duties, and the future with its anticipations — one for wisdom, one for action, and one for hope. THEODORE MUNGER.

Help me to look behind, before.
To make my past and future form
A bow of promise, meeting o'er
The darkness of my day of storm.

PHŒBE CARY.

6. He that hath gathered little hath no lack. — 2. *Cor.* viii. 15.

The only way to regenerate the world is to do the duty which lies nearest to us, and not to hunt after grand, far-fetched ones for ourselves. CHARLES KINGSLEY.

"Do it immediately,
Do it with prayer,
Do it reliantly,
Casting off care;
Do it with reverence,
Tracing his hand
Who hath placed it before thee
With earnest command.
Stayed in omnipotence
Safe 'neath his wing,
Leave all resultings —
'Doe ye nexte thynge.'"

7. Freely ye have received; freely give. — *Matt.* x. 8.

Begin with a generous heart. Think how you can serve others. Then you shall find resources grow. Your own portion shall not be left desolate. Strength shall be shed through you. Do the utmost with what you have, and it shall go far enough. O. B. FROTHINGHAM.

"The heart grows rich in giving; all its wealth is living grain;
Seeds which mildew in the garner, — scattered, fill with gold the plain.
Is thy burden hard and heavy? Do thy steps drag wearily?
Help to bear thy brother's burden. God will bear both it and thee."

8. Now therefore, perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have. — 2. *Cor.* viii. 11.

It is always the danger of our confidence in God's providence, that we shall come to think it will be satisfied with our improvidence. Only as we make the best of what we have, and so become the best we can be, shall we win the great "well done." ROBERT COLLYER.

Shall we say "Thy will be done!"
And on our own errands run?
Vain and evil the design
We pursue, apart from Thine.

Teach us how to live this prayer;
Reverently Thy plans to share.
More than echoes of Thy voice, —
Make us partners in Thy choice.

LUCY LARCOM.

9. Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another; love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous. — 1 *Peter* iii. 8.

The highest relation of man to man is that of compassion. God forbid that any of us should pass through suffering and come out of it not only unchastened, but with no tenderer feeling for the whole suffering humanity. It should be the first question with one who in any way suffers, To what service of ministering pity am I called?

THEODORE MUNGER.

If thou art blest
Then let the sunshine of thy gladness rest
On the dark edges of each cloud that lies
Black in thy brother's skies.
If thou art sad,
Still be thou in thy brother's gladness, glad.

A. E. HAMILTON.

10. I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth. — *Matt.* xi. 25.

Cultivate the thankful spirit! it will be to thee a perpetual feast. There is, or ought to be, with us no such thing as small mercies; all are great, because the least are undeserved. Indeed a really thankful heart will extract motive for gratitude from everything, making the most even of scanty blessings. J. R. MACDUFF.

"O King of kings, before whose throne
The angels bow, no gift can we
Present that is indeed our own,
Since heaven and earth belong to Thee:
Yet this our souls through grace impart,
The offering of a thankful heart."

11. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us.— *John* iv. 16.

Enough to know that God is good, and what He does is right. . . . This known, and then we know that the love of God is working to issues good and glorious. All is good, all is well, is right, and all shall be forever.

DR. DEWEY.

I see the wrong that round me lies,
I feel the guilt within;
I hear with groan and travail cries
The world confess its sin.

Yet, in the maddening maze of things
And tossed by storm and flood,
To one fixed stake my spirit clings;
I know that God is good. WHITTIER.

12. Thou shalt open thy hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land. — *Deut* xv. 11.

There cannot be a more glorious object in creation, than a human being, replete with benevolence, meditating in what manner he might render himself most acceptable to his Creator, by doing most good to His creatures.

FIELDING.

Doing good is the only certainly happy action of a man's life. SIR PHILIP SIDNEY.

Living, thou dost not live,
If mercy's spring run dry;
What Heaven has lent thee wilt thou freely give,
Dying, thou shalt not die. O. W HOLMES

13. If so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. — *Rom.* viii. 17.

There is full compensation for failure in every true life, and the highest, where the struggle and the loss have been the deepest. JOHN KER.

"Count not loss the hopes that fall
Like leaves in autumn, one by one,
Nor dream the light is vanished all,
As the dark, dreary night wears on.

"You shall know at last that loss was gain,
That through your weary, toilsome way,
As you saw the stars in your life-sky wane,
The night was leading to heavenly day."

14. We will obey the voice of the Lord our God, that it may be well with us. — *Jer.* xlii. 6.

Obedience to God is a wonderful tranquilizer. Rest to a true Christian is simply the unhindered permission to do His perfect will. . . . Peace is not dull stagnation; it is the deep, strong current of a soul flowing in harmony with God. T. L. CUYLER.

God's will is like a cliff of stone;
My will is like the sea;
Each murmuring thought is only thrown
Tenderly back to me.

God's will and mine are one this day,
And evermore shall be.
There is a calm in life's tossed bay,
And the waves sleep quietly.

PAUL PASTNOR.

15. I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.— *Ps.* xxxiv. 4.

Let us trust in His providence; let us believe that the events of life, its trials and disasters, its varied experiences, come, not blindly nor by accident, but are sent to give the right temper to our moral and spiritual nature, to fit us for the work we have to do in time and eternity.

J. F. CLARKE.

Know well, my soul, God's hand controls
Whate'er thou fearest;
Round Him in calmest music rolls
Whate'er thou hearest.
What to thee is shadow, to Him is day,
And the end He knoweth,
And not on a blind and aimless way
The spirit goeth.

J. G. WHITTIER.

16. Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.— *Ecc.* xii. 13.

Ask God to show you your duty, and then do that duty well, and from that point you mount to the very peak of vision. E. E. HALE.

Wouldst behold beauty
Near thee, all around?
Only hath duty
Such a sight found. DWIGHT.

So nigh is grandeur to our dust,
So near is God to man,
When Duty whispers low, "Thou must,"
The youth replies, "I can." EMERSON

17. I will praise the name of God with a song. — *Ps* lxix. 30.

Be thou like the bird perched upon some frail thing; although he feels the branch bending beneath him, yet loudly sings, knowing full well that he has wings.

MAD. DE GASPARIN.

My little song of praise
In sweet content I sing;
To Thee the note I raise,
My King! My King!

I cannot tell the art
By which such bliss was given:
I know Thou hast my heart,
And I — have heaven. H. M. B.

18. Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee.— *Isa.* xxvi. 3.

"To see the hand of God in the present, and to trust the future in the hand of God, is the secret of peace."

Why shouldst thou fill to-day with sorrow
About to-morrow,
My heart?
One watches all with care most true,
Doubt not that He will give thee, too
Thy part.

Only be steadfast; never waver
Nor seek earth's favor
But rest:
Thou know'st that what God wills must be
For all His creatures, so for thee,
The best. PAUL FLEMING.

19. Behold the fowls of the air. — *Matt.* vi. 26.

You are as much the object of God's solicitude as if none lived but yourself. He has counted the hairs of your head. . . He has numbered your sighs and your smiles. He has interpreted the desires for which you have not found a name nor an utterance for yourself.

F. W. ROBERTSON.

"Consider
The sparrows of the air of small account;
Our Lord doth view
Whether they fall or mount —
He guards us too.

Consider
The lilies that do neither spin not toil,
Yet are most fair.
What profits all this toil
And all this care?"

20. Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne.— *Ps.* lxxxix. 14.

God rules! therefore that which is hidden will at last come to light, crime will be unmasked, and all evil will meet with its deserts. Therefore only that which is good in itself, and just and true, will eventually conquer and prevail. ZSCHOKKE.

For right is right, since God is God;
And right the day must win;
To doubt would be disloyalty,
To falter would be sin. F. W. FABER.

21. But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, . . . he shall testify of me. And ye also shall bear witness. — *John* xv. 26, 27.

When death strikes down the innocent and young, for every fragile form from which he sets the panting spirit free, a hundred virtues rise, in shapes of mercy, charity and love, to walk the world and bless it. DICKENS.

"Death hath made no breach
In love and sympathy, in hope and trust;
No outward sign or sound our ears can reach;
But there's an inward, spiritual speech
That greets us still, though mortal tongues be dust.

"It bids us do the work that they laid down —
Take up the song where they broke off the strain;
So journeying till we reach the heavenly town,
Where are laid up our treasures and our crown
And our lost loved ones will be found again."

22. The Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men. — 1 *Thess.* iii. 12.

Self-denial, for the sake of self-denial, does no good; self-sacrifice for its own sake is no religious act at all. . . . Self-sacrifice, illuminated by love, is warmth and life; the blessedness and only proper life of man.

F. W. ROBERTSON.

Teach us to love and give like Thee!
Not narrowly men's claims to measure,
But daily question all our powers,
To whose cup can we add a pleasure?
Whose path can we make bright with flowers?

WHITTIER.

23. Our sufficiency is of God.— 2 *Cor.* iii. 5.

If thou look to thyself, thou shalt be able of thyself to accomplish nothing. But if thou trust in the Lord, strength shall be given thee from Heaven, and the world and the flesh shall be made subject to thy command.

THOMAS Á KEMPIS.

We tell Thee of our care,
Of the sore burden, pressing day by day,
And in the light and pity of Thy face,
The burden melts away.

We breathe our secret wish,
The importunate longing which no man may see;
We ask it humbly, or, more restful still,
We leave it all to Thee. SUSAN COOLIDGE.

24. Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that which endureth unto everlasting life.— *John* vi. 27.

All essential interests centre ultimately in the soul, all that do not centre there belong to things that perish. . . . What can man bear about with him that shall beget such reverence as the soul he bears with him?

DR. DEWEY.

Thus sweetly live, thus greatly watch!
Soul, be but inly bright,—
All outer things must smile, must catch
The strong, transcendent light.

Near thee no darkness dares abide,
Thou makest all things shine;
Soul, whom the Lord has glorified,
Is not all glory thine? T. H. GILL.

25. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.— *Luke* ii. 14.

I will honor Christmas in my heart. I will live in the Past, the Present and the Future. The spirits of all three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons which they teach. DICKENS.

Then pealed the bells, more loud and deep,
God is not dead, nor doth He sleep!
The wrong shall fail, the Right prevail,
With "peace on earth, good-will to men!"

LONGFELLOW.

The star that shone in Bethlehem
Shines still, and shall not cease;
And we listen still for the tidings
Of Glory and of Peace.

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

26. Whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God.— 1. *Cor.* x. 31.

Find your niche, and fill it. If it be ever so little, if it is only to be a hewer of wood and drawer of water, do something in this great battle for God and truth.

SPURGEON.

All may of Thee partake;
Nothing so small can be,
But draws, when acted for Thy sake,
Greatness and worth from Thee.

If done beneath Thy laws,
E'en servile labors shine;
Hallowed is toil, if this the cause,
The meanest work, divine.

GEORGE HERBERT.

27. Now I know in part; but then I shall know even as also I am known.— 1 *Cor.* xiii. 12.

Our present difficulties and hard questions will soon be solved and passed by. Even the world itself, so difficult to penetrate, will become a transparency to us, through which God's light will pour as the sun through the open sky. H. BUSHNELL.

"Thou knowest not now, for here we see but darkly
The outlines of His Grace;
The rest is learnt in Heaven's eternal glory,
And face to face.

"Then thou shalt know; that passionless 'hereafter'
Shall solve all mystery;
Dream not that life can hold the tide of wonder
In store for thee."

28. For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face.— 1 *Cor.* xiii. 12.

"God often brings our own plans to naught, in order to deliver us from harm and danger, and very often, what we look upon as our great misfortune, is really the means of greater good."

I think if thou couldst know,
O soul that will complain,
What lies concealed below
Our burden and our pain;
How just our anguish brings
Nearer those longed-for things
We seek for now in vain,—
I think thou wouldst rejoice and not complain

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

29. For who hath despised the day of small things? — *Zech.* iv. 10.

"Do the best you can where you are, and when that is accomplished, God will open a door for you, and a voice will call, 'Come up hither into a higher sphere.'"

O small beginnings, ye are great and strong,
Based on a faithful heart, and weariless brain!
Ye build the future fair, ye conquer wrong,
Ye earn the crown and wear it not in vain.

LOWELL.

30. Blessed is the man that endureth temptation, for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life. — *James* i. 12.

She began the cross, but when she had nearly finished it, it occurred to her that there could not be a better foundation for a crown. Nothing was needed but to add a base and two wing-like curves. And she smiled at all there was suggested in the idea of the cross in the crown — part of its very structure. Yet when it was finished, scarcely anybody would notice that there was a cross there.

EDWARD GARRETT.

They fashion in crosses their crowns,
Unconscious of labor so grand;
And while through their tears they look down
On burdens of heart and of hand,
It comes to their thought, while they weep,
That the rude cross, girded with wings,
Can no more its old semblance keep,
And lo! to crown-likeness it springs.

W. C. RICHARDS.

31. Lo, I am with you alway. — *Matt.* xxviii. 20.

We turn and look upon the valley of the past year. There below, are the spots stained by our evil and our fear. But as we look, a glow of sunlight breaks upon the past, and in the sunshine is a soft rain falling from heaven. It washes away the stain, and from the purity of the upper sky a voice seems to descend and enter our sobered hearts : " My child, go forward, abiding in faith, hope and love, for " lo, I am with you alway.' " STOPFORD BROOKE.

For looking backward through the year
Along the way my feet have pressed,
I see sweet places everywhere,
Sweet places where my soul had rest.
My sorrows have not been so light,
The chastening hand I could not trace,
Nor have my blessings been so great
That they have hid my Father's face.

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